

Section 4: Priorities, Goals and Strategies



During the East Buffalo GNPA neighborhood planning process, residents and community stakeholders identified the following as neighborhood priorities:

1. Police and Public Safety
2. Parks and Environment
3. Public Works
4. Economic Development and Historic Preservation
5. Schools, Libraries, and Youth
6. Housing and Vacant Lots
7. Transportation

Goal statements, strategies and activities for each neighborhood priority were gathered from East Buffalo residents and community stakeholders through neighborhood surveys, community planning summits, a neighborhood and demographic trend analysis and a series of East Buffalo GNPA planning committee meetings.

Neighborhood Priorities

Below is a description of each priority. Included are the goals and strategies that the East Buffalo GNPA agreed would be necessary for implementation. Following this section, there are five additional subsections (4a-4e) in which each priority is laid out by specific neighborhood with goals and strategies particular to that neighborhood. Timeframes for implementation are in Section 5.

1. Police and Public Safety (PS)

PS1- Goal: Increase presence and visibility of police officers.

Strategies:

- Use foot patrols, scooters and bikes in commercial and residential areas.
- Install police substation at Broadway Market.
- Use mounted sheriff patrols in Broadway Market area and other commercial areas.
- Improve police presence at parks. (Use Erie County Park Rangers to patrol parks.)
- Expand the special police officer patrol program throughout East Buffalo provided that the special police have the needed liability insurance required under city charter.
- Restore Police Station District C Annex, 1345 Bailey Avenue.

PS2- Goal: Improve the communication and relationships between residents and police.

Strategies:

- Develop a long-term system for residents to safely and anonymously report crimes.
 - Print “Problem Property” tips sheets in each neighborhood in local community newspapers.
 - Promote and distribute items published by local government officials including “Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Right Now “ and the “Neighborhood Impact Statement” (County of Erie Office of the District Attorney’s Community Prosecution Bureau) and “Solutions for a Better Quality of Life: A Guide to Solving Neighborhood Issues” (Assemblymember Sam Hoyt & Judge Henry J. Nowak, Buffalo City Housing Court) to block clubs, churches, businesses and non-profits. Also, print highlights of items in local community newspapers.
- Better publicity for anonymous tip line (at bus stops, churches, etc.).
- Organize monthly neighborhood watch group meetings between residents, public safety officers and special police officers.
- Support the new Lower East Side Weed & Seed initiative.

PS3- Goal: Decrease crime and the public’s perception of crime.

Strategies:

- Identify and then fence off prime “cut throughs” in neighborhoods.
- By collaborating with police and/or special police, work to break up gangs on street corners during hours of peak activity.
- Install better street lighting and building lighting and cameras on street corners.
- Use consultants through the City of Buffalo to provide security for properties through environmental design.
- Hire police who live in the City limits.
- Provide safe zones for East Buffalo youth.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Develop methods to review and if needed correct inaccurate media reporting.
- Promote community events.

2. Parks (P) and Environment (E)

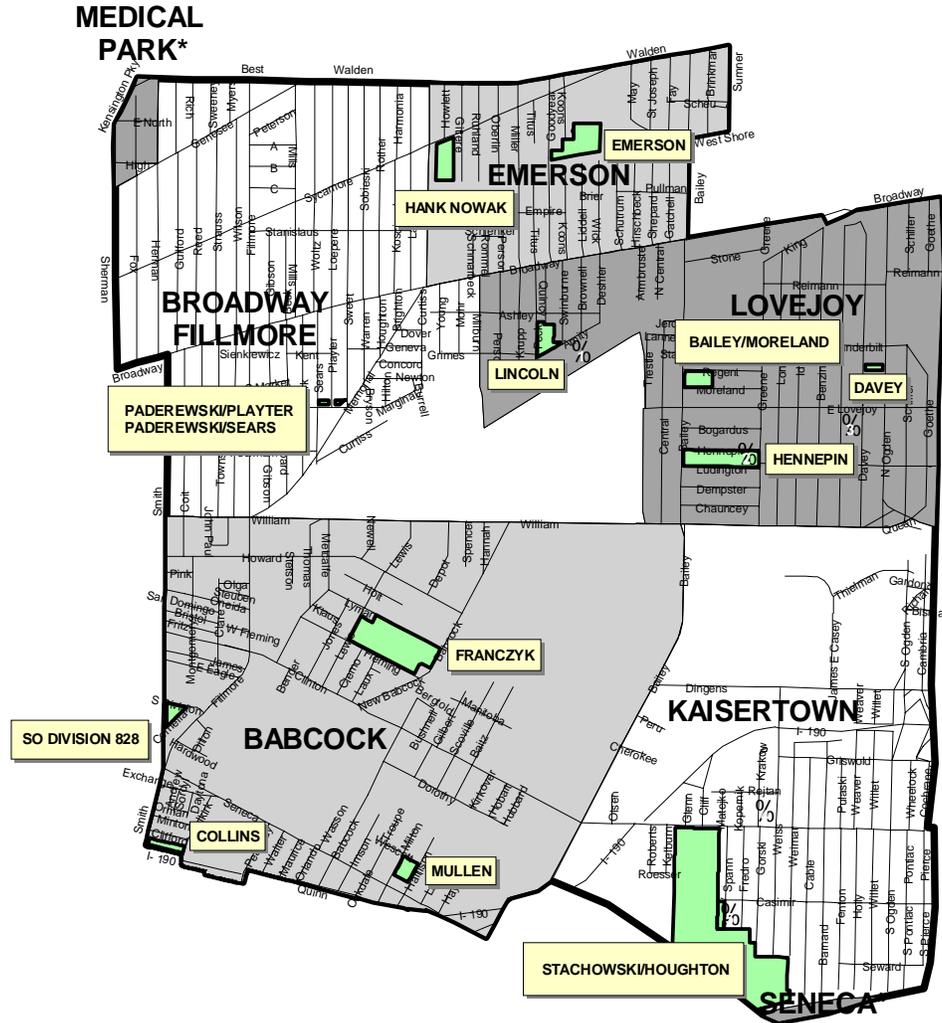
East Buffalo GNPA Survey Results:

- 85% of participants surveyed felt that the parks in East Buffalo were not adequately maintained.
- 50% of participants said that the City’s plan for Eastside parks should simply include maintenance of those that exist.

P1- Goal: Maintain and improve East Buffalo’s thirteen designated existing parks (see map titled “East Buffalo GNPA Parks and Recreation Facilities” on page 70).

These areas include:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hank Nowak Park | 6. Hennepin Park | 10. Collins Park |
| 2. Emerson Park | 7. Franczyk Park | 11. Paderewski/Playter |
| 3. Lincoln Park | 8. Mullen Park | 12. Paderewski/Sears |
| 4. Bailey/Moreland Park | 9. Stachowski-Houghton Park | 13. South Division |
| 5. Davey Park | | |



EAST BUFFALO GNPA PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Comprehensive and Community Planning
Office of Strategic Planning
City of Buffalo
9/19/2005

LEGEND

- RECREATIONAL FACILITY
- PARK
- STREET
- PLANNING NEIGHBORHOOD
- BABCOCK
- BROADWAY FILLMORE
- EMERSON
- KAISERTOWN
- LOVEJOY
- MEDICAL PARK*
- SENECA*
- GNPA BOUNDARY

*Only areas of this neighborhood located inside the GNPA boundary are shown on this map.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- 1 Lincoln Field House Comm. Ctr.
- 2 Hennepin Park Comm. Ctr.
- 3 Lovejoy Indoor Pool
- 4 Machnica Comm. Ctr.
- 5 Houghton Pool

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Strategies:

- All East Buffalo City parks should receive the same resources and maintenance as parks across the City. Every park should be equipped with:
 - Lighting,
 - Emergency Phones,
 - Signage indicating the name of the park, hours, and contact number in case of damage or other problems,
 - Adequate seating,
 - Restrooms,
 - Equipment in good repair, and
 - Drinking Fountain.
- Develop a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule for parks.
- Use Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a guide for maintaining parks and securing resources.
- Add new landscaping.
- Build new athletic facilities (such as sledding hills, wading pools, bike trails, skate parks and bocce ball courts).
- Have parks attendants available at all times who have first aid and CPR training. (Use Erie County Park Rangers.)



P2 - Goal: Promote East Buffalo's parks as both historical and regional assets.

Strategies:

- Recognize Martin Luther King Park (MLK) (that abuts the East Buffalo GNPA along Best Street) basin as a longstanding water feature.
- Encourage activities in MLK Park that cater to regional audiences like Juneteenth Festival.
- Hold more City-sponsored events at parks.
- Recognize Central Terminal property as a passive park.
- Recognize original Olmsted Parks as national treasures.
- Add passive parks into the existing Olmsted Parks System.

P3-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing pocket parks, small urban parks.

Strategies:

- Survey existing pocket parks.
- Survey vacant parcels to identify potential pocket parks.

P4-Goal: Identify location for passive parks within East Buffalo GNPA neighborhood.

Strategies:

- The creation passive parks should utilize large tracts of vacant, abandoned and otherwise derelict properties. This project would also address several issues simultaneously:
 - housing glut,
 - abandoned and derelict property,
 - utilize and maintain land in order to create a respite in the heart of the city,
 - provide environmentally sound housing that would encompass park areas, and
 - encourage population growth.
- Apply New Urbanism ideas in relation to parks and open spaces within East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods where they would be most conducive and appropriate.

P5-Goal: Identify locations for green parkway system within East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods.

Strategies:

- Use the Olmsted Conservancy's plan for green parkway systems as a guide for identification of this green parkway.
- Identify opportunities for landscape improvements.

E1-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing open green spaces.

Strategies:

- Survey existing green spaces.

E2 - Goal: Preserve and enhance existing green spaces and urban natural resources.

Strategies:

- Extend the "natural heritage systems" outlined in the City of Buffalo's Comprehensive Plan to the end of the City line to include land behind Stachowski-Houghton Park to sustain biodiversity.
- Work with various groups to plant trees.
- Promote community gardening, composting and recycling programs.
- Support Corpus Christi's plan to create a park like setting around the church.
- Promote using green spaces as buffers between residential and industrial properties.

E3 - Goal: Protect existing green spaces and urban natural resources from contamination.

Strategies:

- Pursue funding for brownfield remediation from the City of Buffalo and from external Western New York resources.

- Target pollution: clean sewers and systemically eliminate rats, open junk yards, illegal dumping, tire burning, business that wash barrels and hazardous material brought in through the railroad.

E4 - Goal: Better regulate businesses classified as junkyards.

Strategies:

- Inventory all existing junkyards within the GNPA, enforce regulation of them, and identify best practices to make them more neighborhood-friendly.
- Advocate for a temporary moratorium of 1 year by Common Council on any new or any expansion of businesses classified as junkyards so that the inventory and best practices referred to above can be established.
- Develop strategy to zone out junkyards.

3. Public Works (PW)

PW1 - Goal: Maintain and improve existing infrastructure pertaining to streets, lighting and sanitation.

Strategies:

- Repave entire streets; fix broken curbs and sidewalks.
- Preserve existing brick streets.
- Clean neighborhood streets and clean out the sewer system.
- Install proper street signage for trucks.
- Support the completion of the plan for Memorial Drive/Paderewski traffic circle in conjunction with Central Terminal Restoration Corporation and Buffalo Federation of Women’s Clubs.
- Consider green median as well as curb cuts and bump outs to enhance off-street parking on Broadway, as detailed in the Broadway Fillmore Strategic Plan.
- Request National Grid to put numbers back on streetlights and repair streetlights.
- Provide feedback to the City on the effectiveness on the division of sectors/areas for garbage trucks and plows.



PW2 - Goal: Improve and increase snow removal services and resources.

Strategies:

- Work with elected officials to ensure that major roads are plowed efficiently and effectively and in a timely manner.
- Encourage residents move cars to community/residential parking lots to allow City plows to clear the streets.
- Install plows on the front of City garbage trucks.
- Suggest City of Buffalo purchase snow-melting equipment.
- Organize volunteers (Y.E.S.) through community centers and block clubs to assist with snow removal on residential streets and sidewalks. Partner with the City for support

with acquiring equipment, training, insurance and storage and maintenance of equipment.

PW3 - Goal: Short term: Prohibit the expansion of existing or creation of new transfer stations in the East Buffalo GNPA by any organization or business other than the City of Buffalo at the South Ogden Station. Long term: Remove existing and prohibit new transfer stations from East Buffalo GNPA.

Strategies:

- Confirm with zoning experts that zoning for CM-M3 prohibits transfer stations.
- Lobby the Common Council for changes to zoning to prohibit transfer stations from being put in or near residential areas.
- Advocate against approval of new transfer stations by any organization or business at State and Federal level.
- Collaborate with other GNPA's on the elimination of transfer stations.

PW4 - Goal: Encourage residential recycling.

Strategies:

- Increase awareness among residents of the GNPA as to where they can obtain new or replacement recycling bins at designated community centers (HomeFront, Matt Urban Center).
- Support school involvement in the recycling program. For example, recycling poster contests and innovative/creative recycling education.

4. Economic Development (ED) and Historic Preservation (HP)

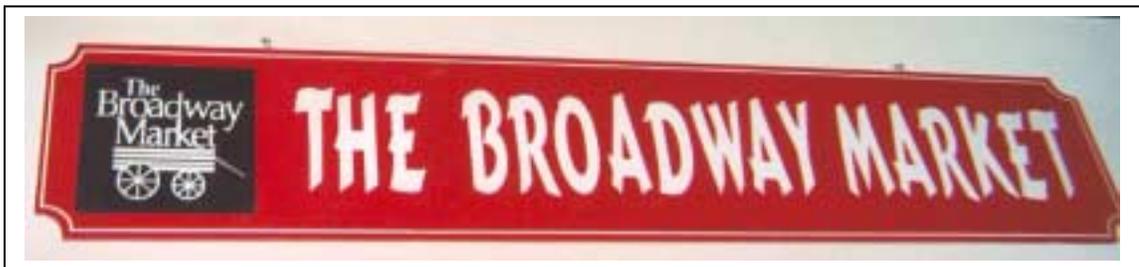
<p>East Buffalo GNPA Survey Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 75% of participants surveyed believed that the City did not offer enough support for small business development in East Buffalo.➤ 50% believed that economic development in East Buffalo was very important to Buffalo's future.➤ Only 20% of respondents wanted to see chain stores go up in East Buffalo. Most preferred locally owned shops and businesses.
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Special Economic Development Statement: Given the loss of population and what must be considered a limited potential for population growth, we must reasonably forecast retail for the GNPA neighborhoods by undertaking a market analysis effort. Such efforts have occurred in CARE Areas, including the existing Broadway Fillmore CARE Area. By expanding CARE Areas to include other neighborhood business districts within the East Buffalo GNPA (see ED1), these other areas could benefit from the same market analysis.

ED1 - Goal: Attract and retain businesses in East Buffalo's commercial areas that provide a wide range of services. (Suggestions include: pet stores, barber shops, pizza/restaurants, health food stores, museums, art/dance studios, bakeries, dental/doctor offices, ice cream parlors, shoe repair shoes, clothing stores, movie theaters, plant nursery, and light manufacturers.)

Strategies:

- Designate Lovejoy St., Clinton St. from Bailey Avenue to City Line, and Seneca St. from Bailey Ave. to Fillmore Ave. as Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Areas (CARE). Capitalize on existing Broadway-Fillmore's CARE Area designation.
- Maintain a well-kept environment:
 - Add more trashcans to sidewalks.
 - Better enforcement of litter laws; develop more stringent laws.
 - Plant more flowers.
 - Install better lighting.
 - Improve business signage.
 - Develop design standards for storefronts in commercial areas.
 - Build well-lit City parking lots on main business corridors with access off the main streets.
 - Plant appropriate trees along business districts and neighborhood corridors.
- Provide support to small business development.
 - Operate BERC's small business office at the Broadway Market.
 - East Buffalo GNPA research and promote the creation or expansion of an East Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. (ie. The Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce)
 - Work with BERC and Common Council to develop more/better tax incentives and low-interest loans for small businesses.
 - Inventory existing small business development programs and disseminate information in a tip sheet and/or maps about existing programs and agencies that support small businesses. See map titled "East Buffalo Selected Programs Focused on Commercial/Industrial Properties Map" which details some existing programs which may benefit small businesses on page 10.
 - Partner with local business entrepreneurs to do community workshops focusing on their methods for success.
 - Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
 - Create a marketing campaign to attract suburban customers to East Buffalo businesses using cultural diversity as a marketing tool.
 - Improve the public's image of East Buffalo.



- Develop an inventory of vacant commercial/industrial buildings.

- Market available commercial/industrial buildings through economic development agencies and small business associations.
- Support the creation and development of light office parks.
- Support Broadway Market Management Corporation's Strategic Plan.
 - Work with Broadway Market to assist their coinvestigators in producing a United States Department of Agriculture Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood Food Alliance strategy document for the Office of Strategic Planning.

ED2 - Goal: Increase access to consumer services that enhance livability.

Strategies:

- Research consumer services in commercial areas.
- Infill based on identified consumer services needs.
- Open more locally owned dry cleaners, laundromats, drug stores, photocopy stores and department stores as prior research has indicated a need/want.
- Encourage banks to open on Saturdays.

HP1 - Goal: Build on strengths of existing neighborhood fabric emphasizing unique features and cultural heritage.

Strategies:

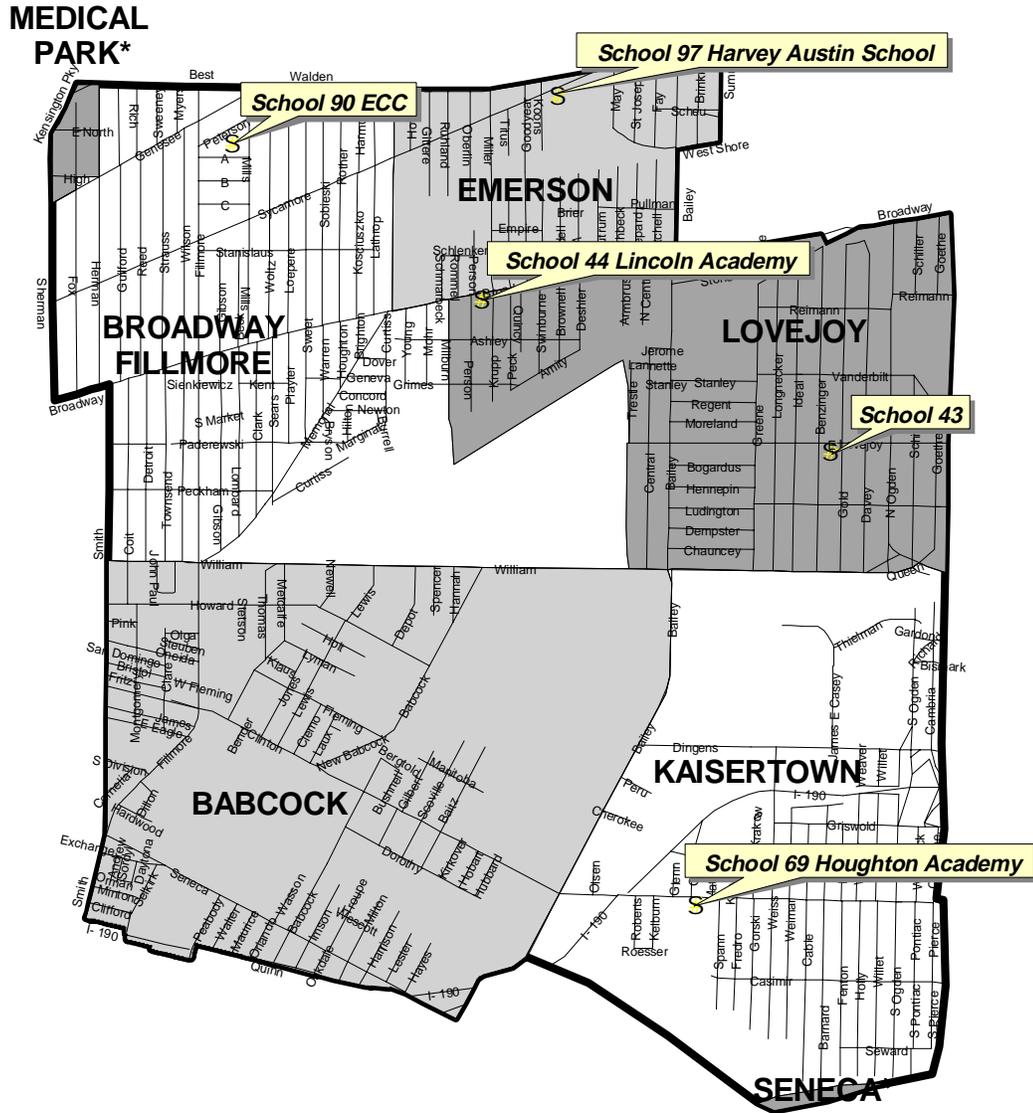
- Support the Clinton Street Barn, Inc. Strategic Plan.
- Work with local consultants to identify specific historic structures that qualify for national and local historic landmark recognition and protection.
- Educate residents about historic preservation: what it means for their property and neighborhood, funding available and how to access funding.
- Preserve and maintain existing brick streets; promote neighborhood curb appeal.
- Support the initiatives of the Terminal Restoration Corporation's Strategic Plan. (in progress as of February 2006)
- Ensure that the Central Terminal provides public access and private uses.
- Support Broadway Market Management Corporation's Strategic Plan.
 - Work with Broadway Market to assist their coinvestigators in producing a United States Department of Agriculture Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood Food Alliance strategy document for the Office of Strategic Planning.
- Find a variety of uses for local landmarks (Broadway Market, Central Terminal, churches, etc.).
- Advocate the City to make every effort to preserve any and all properties that can be documented to have historical significance.

HP2 - Goal: All historic properties are up to code.

Strategies:

- Inventory and research existing historic properties and/or buildings to be preserved and maintained according to government codes.

5. Schools (S), Libraries (L), and Youth (Y),



EAST BUFFALO GNPA SCHOOLS

Comprehensive and Community Planning
Office of Strategic Planning
City of Buffalo
4/2006

LEGEND

- SCHOOL
- STREET
- PLANNING NEIGHBORHOOD
- BABCOCK
- BROADWAY FILLMORE
- EMERSON
- KAISERTOWN
- LOVEJOY
- MEDICAL PARK*
- SENECA*
- GNPA BOUNDARY

Note: The status of schools (open/closed) is undergoing change as the Joint Schools Construction Board project proceeds. For up to date information, visit the Board of Education or Ciminelli JSCB web sites.

*Only areas of this neighborhood located inside the GNPA boundary are shown on this map.

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S1 - Goal: Update, repair, and expand existing public schools to be comfortable and properly equipped for learning. See schools map above.

Strategies:

- Support the Joint Schools Construction Board projects in the East Buffalo GNPA area: Phase I school construction is complete (Emerson High School-PS #302, 1405 Sycamore Street, and Stanton Academy-PS #31, 212 Stanton Street); Phase II is complete (Early Childhood Center-PS #90, 50 A Street) or almost complete (Houghton Academy-PS #69, 1725 Clinton Avenue).
- Support expansion of School #43, 161 Benzinger Street, to Pre-K through 8th grade from grades 3rd through 8th.
- Support School #43 to be included in Phase III of the Joint Schools Construction Board project to expand the grades and programs at this school.
- Improve lighting and sidewalks around schools.
- Provide more books and computers to each public school.
- In the case of a public school closure, the neighborhood would support reuse of that building by a Charter School.
- Research www.standup.org as a resource for all school strategies outlined in this plan.

S2 - Goal: Create or improve existing services provided to students by public schools.

Strategies:

- Place an increased emphasis on teaching and empowering students to respect themselves and others.
- Require and monitor that all students comprehend the basic skills at their grade level before passing to the next grade level.
- Reestablish full art, music and history classes.
- Promote smaller class sizes taught by well-paid and knowledgeable teachers.
- Support the Creative Educational Continuum, a cradle-to-college student and parent/care-giver enrichment program that involves the schools, neighborhoods, and human services organizations.
- The GNPA is promoting after school programs for use. In areas where there are no community centers we recommend that the school provide the “Lighted School House Program.”
 - The “Lighted School House Program” is an initiative funded by a block grant in order to keep schools open after hours, from “dinner time” to 9:00 p.m. This time was allotted for activities for both youth and adults. Services provided included: education classes, arts & crafts, and sports & recreation.

S3 - Goal: Build neighborhoods around schools.

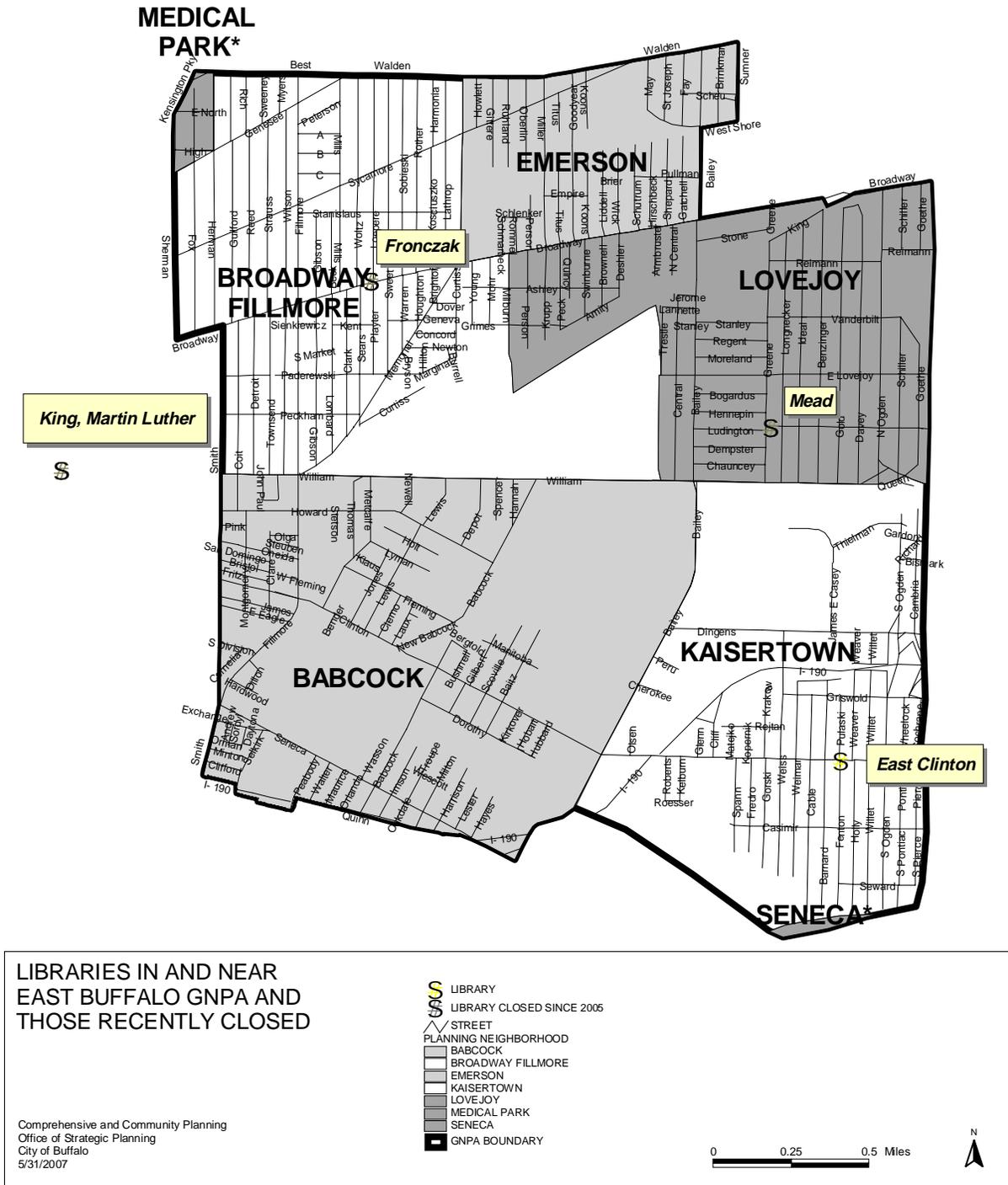
Strategies:

- Evaluate existing homes and support improvement of housing around schools.
- Demolish abandoned schools or find an immediate reuse. (Suggestions for reuse of public schools include: senior assistance living facilities, loft apartments (market rate), private office space, community center, and neighborhood high school as needed.)
- Promote smaller neighborhood schools and give neighborhood children the first right of refusal to attend a school in their neighborhood.
- Encourage the linkages between renovated/new schools with their surrounding neighborhoods.

L1-Goal: Support existing neighborhood library. See East Buffalo GNPA Library map below.

S

Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.



Strategies:

- Advocate to maintain the only library in the East Buffalo GNPA to remain open: East Clinton.
- Support Council Member's and/or community organizations that want to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries with volunteers (Mead, Fronczak).
- The East Clinton Library is in the official county library system. The Mead and Fronczak libraries would become affiliates. Book borrowing and returning would be channeled through one library, East Clinton.
- Create an advisory group from Broadway-Fillmore and Lovejoy neighborhoods to advocate and solicit funds to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries.

Y1 - Goal: Provide safe zones for East Buffalo youth.

Strategies:

- Continue to promote the "Drug and Weapon Free Zones," which carry stiffer penalties for violations.
 - Ensure good signage.
 - Neighborhood residents partner with FBI to enforce the zones.
- Increase presence and visibility of Buffalo Police.

Y2 - Goal: Create more jobs, programs and activities for youth.

Strategies:

- Promote youth programs that engage community members through;
 1. *Community Volunteerism*

Offer a Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S) program modeled after the AmeriCorps Y.E.S Program provided by the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. This is a volunteer program that provides teens (12-18) the opportunity to become contributing members of society. Y.E.S. volunteers provide community service through direct interaction with children, senior citizens, and the emotionally and physically challenged.
 2. *Education*

Through several partnerships, residents could gain access to a variety of educational services.

 - South Buffalo Education Center: to provide GED classes and free computer classes.
 - Deamen College's Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement: to provide after school tutoring for children and youth.
 - City of Buffalo: develop, support and promote programs such as YO! Buffalo (Youth Opportunity Movement). The Yo! Program targets youth (16-21) who have dropped out of high school and are functioning at or below an eighth grade level in reading and math. Yo! offers job opportunities, transportation, and supplies to responsible participants. Employers who participate in the program receive the benefits of either a full or 51% wage subsidy, depending upon the level of employment. Involved youth may transition directly into working for the organizations they are placed with and become eligible to receive tuition assistance to pursue formal training in the field. This program

currently operates in three Federal Empowerment Zones in Buffalo, including on the West Side where it operates through the Belle Center.

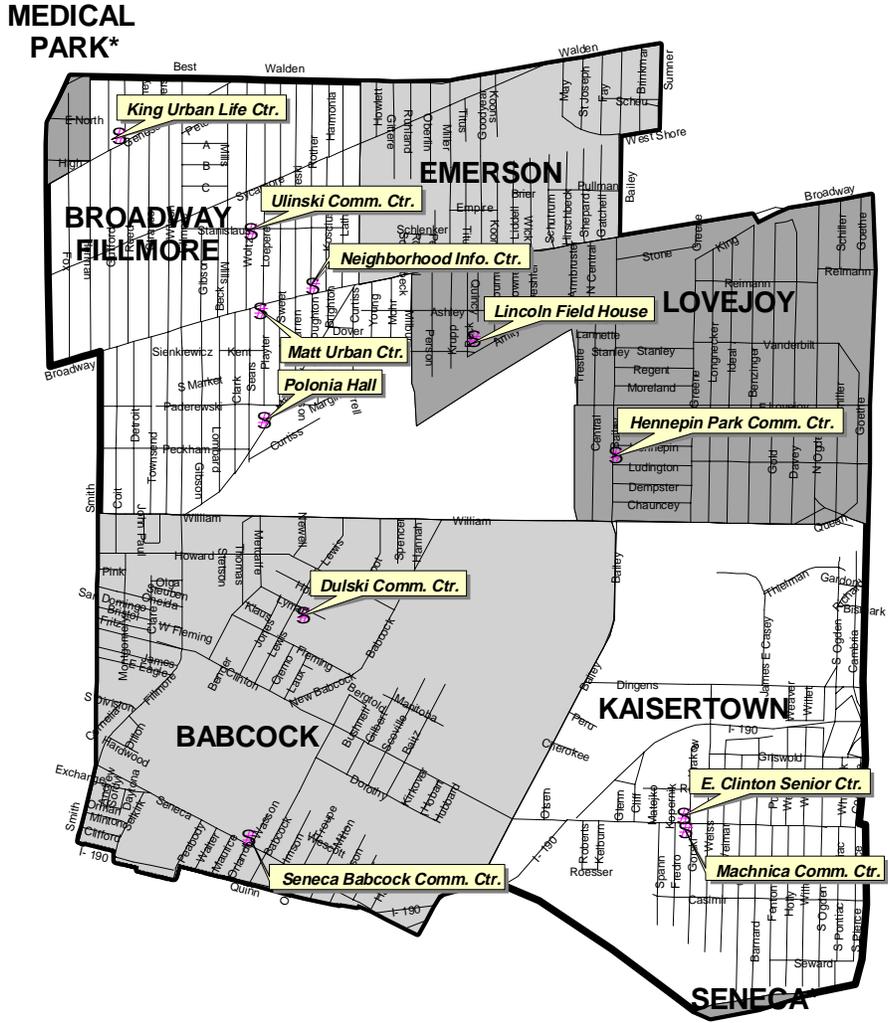
3 Professional Training

Provide resume writing classes and job interview workshops. Partner with such groups as the Babcock Community Association, “Youth Build,” and other organizations to provide trade apprenticeship programs. “Youth Build” is a nation-wide program that offers youth (16-24) real life training and job experience while also providing education classes, counseling services, and leadership development opportunities.

- Develop Children’s Community Gardens. (Children’s gardens offer an opportunity to add to the aesthetics of East Buffalo while giving the children a valuable resource. A children’s garden could be developed on a vacant site. Sites should be chosen close to community organizations offering youth activities for convenience and easy maintenance of the garden.)



- Support current programming at the various community centers within the East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods, see map below.



EAST BUFFALO GNPA COMMUNITY CENTERS

Comprehensive and Community Planning
Office of Strategic Planning
City of Buffalo
1/11/2006

LEGEND

- COMMUNITY CENTER
- STREET
- PLANNING NEIGHBORHOOD
- BABCOCK
- BROADWAY FILLMORE
- EMERSON
- KAISERTOWN
- LOVEJOY
- MEDICAL PARK*
- SENECA*
- GNPA BOUNDARY

Note: Data on Community Centers is from a Building Inventory database prepared by Foit-Albert Associates, 12/20/01.

*Only areas of this neighborhood located inside the GNPA boundary are shown on this map.

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

6. Housing (H) and Vacant Lots (VL)

East Buffalo GNPA Survey Results:

- 80% of participants surveyed thought that more houses in East Buffalo were in need of rehabilitation.
- 95% thought more houses needed to be demolished.
- 80% of participants felt East Buffalo needed more innovative housing programs.
- 85% agreed that East Buffalo needed more foreclosure prevention programs.
- 90% of participants felt there was not enough safe and affordable rental housing for families and seniors.
- Only 10% of participants felt that new homes should be built.

Special Housing and Vacant Lots Statement: Building on the existing assets and strengths of the neighborhoods as well as through the rise of brand new initiatives, opportunities for growth and revitalization will occur within the GNPA neighborhoods. These opportunities will be the product of work of existing and new institutions, the City of Buffalo, business groups, community groups, the Board of Education, and other entities. They will involve new investments. The GNPA, as a result, will endeavor to continually work to identify these new opportunities, assess their “spillover effects”, and the feasibility of connecting them with new efforts for improving the housing and vacant lot situation surrounding these new areas of growth and revitalization. This will ensure that opportunities are not missed, and will maximize their potential for improving the community. This concept is reflected generally in the goals and strategies that follow, and is discussed as it relates to specific neighborhoods in sections 4a-4e.

H1 - Goal: Redevelop East Buffalo’s housing stock and increase housing options. (Note: see neighborhood-specific strategies in subsections 4a-4e below.)

Strategies:

- Implement housing redevelopment priorities specific to each neighborhood’s needs and assets. The housing redevelopment priorities to be implemented include:
 - Rehab owner-occupied homes.
 - Acquire and rehab abandoned homes.
 - Build new homes including townhouses/condos for active seniors and singles.
 - Rehab two unit buildings that are owner occupied.
 - Encourage affordable housing for seniors.
 - If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood.
- All housing development priorities will have a focus on owner occupancy and building around schools as well as a long-term objective to build or rehab homes with an emphasis on people being able to stay in their homes regardless of age or special needs.
- Working with housing agencies, identify and increase community resources to support housing redevelopment and housing maintenance.
 - Hold a construction company competition to rehab homes.
 - Partner with and encourage Habitat for Humanity to work in targeted areas and focus on sweat equity.

- Identify local funding and in kind resources for Habitat for Humanity to use on specific neighborhood projects.
- Advocate to the City to pursue non-public funding for homeowners at 80% or over median income guidelines for housing rehab.
- Encourage continuation of City of Buffalo practice of having housing agencies that contract with the City of Buffalo collaborate with the GNPA.
- Collaborating with business associations and Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce to implement a discount card program for area residents from local vendors for minor home repairs.
- Research and advocate for the use of green architecture in the redevelopment of homes where appropriate.
- Follow through on existing plans.
- Monitor the use of federal housing funds.

H2 - Goal: Increase homeownership and owner occupancy.

Strategies:

- Promote programs/funds available for first time homebuyers.
- Prioritize available funds to existing residents/homeowners.
- Rehab vacant apartments to be owner occupied. Do not rehab properties that will be owned by absentee landlords.
- Encourage post-homebuying education classes to assist homeowners in maintaining and improving their homes.

H3 - Goal: Hold individuals accountable for owning/renting dilapidated houses.

Strategies:

- Advocate to the City of Buffalo for strict enforcement of the laws and penalties already on the books, more fines (garnish wages) and jail time, and to work with inspectors and members of block clubs and follow their recommendations.
- Encourage enforcement of Section 8 standards for both the property and tenants living in the property.
- Implement tenant and landlord education programs that promote responsibility.
- Provide collaboration and support to Housing Court Judge Henry Nowak for his programs involving receivership and other tools to bring homes into compliance with housing codes.
- Expand the City's Comprehensive Code Enforcement Areas to Lovejoy and Kaisertown neighborhoods.

H4 - Goal: Eliminate predatory lending.

Strategies:

- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to put limit on the number of properties that an individual can buy at any given time through City auctions or foreclosures.
- Recommend that no more than 10 homes be allowed for purchase at any given time unless an individual has a positive proven track record.

- Require background checks; work with the City to require full disclosure by a buyer for City auctions and foreclosures and HUD sales, particularly on-line sales.
- Recommend that the City not consummate a sale until a background check has been done; give 3-5 business days for the background check to be completed.
- Promote credit-counseling programs to first time homebuyers.
- Support “Buffalo Don’t Borrow Trouble”, a consumer education program of the Buffalo Urban League.



H5 - Goal: Smart-target demolition planning.

Strategies:

- In order to target demolition effectively, priority is given to homes and areas where frail populations (children and elderly) live, play, go to school, and work.

VI1 - Goal: Maintain existing vacant lots and redevelop them into neighborhood assets.

Strategies:

- Do inventory of existing vacant lots and identify their owners.
- Support the City of Buffalo’s Vacant Land, Buildings and Facilities Asset Management (VLBFAM) Program to establish neighborhood inventories, set local priorities, and coordinate walk throughs of the neighborhoods to map and identify areas that are being used as junkyards. With the completion of the Program’s report and strategy, assess the applicability of their recommendations to the neighborhood.
- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to implement and enforce a maintenance plan for non-City owned lots. The City could generate revenue through taxes on these lots. Recommend the revenue created pay for the contracting of monitoring and enforcement services by a private company.
- Promote Homesteading.
- Use vacant lots to increase lot space for community/residential parking lots, side yards and garages.
- Develop Children’s Community Gardens.

7. Transportation (T)

T1 - Goal: Maintain and upgrade transportation in East Buffalo.

Strategies:

- Preserve existing infrastructure.
- Preserve and improve pavement of all streets.
- Repair and replace bridges as necessary.
- Inventory and preserve existing brick streets.

T2 - Goal: Improve and expand public transportation.

Strategies:

- Increase use of public transit and para-transit.
- Target neighborhood clean up projects around public transit stops.
- Identify existing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) stops that need to be improved (i.e. benches/signage).
- Advocate for the identification of new bus shelters where needed.
- Encourage NFTA to place permanently affixed schedules at each bus stop within GNPA.
- Advocate NFTA to make available a map of all bus routes.
- Have the name of each bus stop on the sign for the bus stop.
- Work in collaboration with Citizens Regional Transit Corporation to improve and expand public transportation.

T3 - Goal: Improve mobility and accessibility.

Strategies:

- Implement inter-modal system.
- Identify and implement bicycle infrastructure.
- Promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicles (SOV).
- Educate residents on transportation issues.

T4 - Goal: Use transportation for economic opportunities.

Strategies:

- Employ transportation services which promote higher density.
- Encourage efficient public transportation through existing business corridors to increase employment opportunities.
- Provide for efficient and reliable freight service by rail or truck.
- Promote accessibility to tourist destinations.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Make transportation infrastructure friendly to tourists/visitors.
- Emphasize the impact of Joseph Ellicott's work.

T5 - Goal: Affect transportation policy to improve quality of life.

Strategies:

- Mitigate environmental impacts of transportation activities.
- Employ traffic calming methods in residential areas.
- Decrease energy consumption.
- Encourage and enhance non-motorized transportation.
- Request City to stripe or mark all pedestrian crossings.
- Time all signaled intersections to allow for safe crossing by the frailest of pedestrians.

T6 - Goal: Improve transportation and land use coordination.

Strategies:

- Coordinate the regional, city, and neighborhood transportation and land use plans such as this neighborhood plan.
- Encourage mixed-use development by providing multi-modal transportation connections.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Incorporate land use model with transportation planning.

T7 - Goal: Work with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and NFTA to understand existing and future transportation plans for the East Buffalo GNPA area.

Strategies:

- Request GBNRTC and/or NYSDOT to make available planning tools at the neighborhood level (GIS information, access to data and reports, funding for planning expertise).
- Involve GNPA in the Transportation Improvement Program development process of GBNRTC.
- Establish methods for GNPA needs identification to be routed to the Planning and Coordinating Committee of GBNRTC.
- GNPA should be able to initiate Initial Project Proposal Submissions. GNPA can add specific local and private information not readily available to planners at a broader geographic or broader governance level (i.e. regional, state, federal levels).
- GNPA should provide feedback as an advisory group to transportation needs identified by NYSDOT.
- Neighborhood input, through GNPA, should be referenced and recognized during implementation of successful projects.
- Integrate NFTA service with that offered by other transportation providers to increase mobility and access, enhance inter-communication and scheduling. For example, project submitted to NYSDOT by Buffalo Community Center Collaborative.
- Support GBNRTC proposal to expand rail service from central business district downtown to the airport.
 - Support incremental steps to increase bus service from central business district downtown to the airport.
- Specific suggestions for Initial Project Proposals include:
 - Improve Clinton Street and replace bridges on Clinton Street from Jefferson Avenue to City Line.

- Realign/Improve William Street from Jefferson Avenue to Fillmore Avenue.
- Realign/Improve Paderewski Street from Fillmore Avenue westward.
- Implement Wilson Street Greenway from MLK Park to William Street.
- Mill and Resurface more residential streets.
- Make Landscape Improvements on: Fillmore Avenue (Olmsted Parkway), Broadway, Memorial, Seneca, Sycamore, Walden.
- Add bus shelters and pedestrian furniture on Broadway.

Neighborhood Specific Goals and Strategies

At one point in Buffalo's history, East Buffalo was one of the most densely populated areas. The East Buffalo GNPA would like to see the area regain some of its lost population and vitality. This can only be done through the rebuilding of our neighborhoods to maintain the current population and encourage them to remain. Only after we have been able to sustain this group of loyal and proud residents can we encourage more to return. This is our plight, our mission. Through the breakdown of each neighborhood we can more clearly see where to begin in this very involved undertaking.

4a. Broadway-Fillmore

1. Police and Public Safety (PS)

PS1-Goal: Increase presence and visibility of police officers.

Strategies:

- Use foot patrols, scooters and bikes in commercial and residential areas.
- Install police substation at Broadway Market.
- Use mounted sheriff patrols along Broadway-Fillmore commercial corridor.
- Improve police presence at Paderewski/Playter, Paderewski/Sears, and Martin Luther King Jr. Park, which abuts the Broadway/Fillmore neighborhood, by using Erie County Park Rangers to patrol parks.
- Expand the special police officer patrol program throughout the neighborhood provided that the special police have the needed liability insurance required under city charter.

PS2- Goal: Improve the communication and relationships between residents and police.

Strategies:

- Develop a long-term system for residents to safely and anonymously report crimes.
 - Print "Problem Property" tips sheets in local community newspapers.
 - Promote and distribute items published by local government officials including "Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Right Now " and the "Neighborhood Impact Statement" (County of Erie Office of the District Attorney's Community Prosecution Bureau) and "Solutions for a Better Quality of Life: A Guide to Solving Neighborhood Issues" (Assemblymember Sam Hoyt & Judge Henry J. Nowak, Buffalo City Housing Court) to block clubs, churches, businesses and non-profits. Also, print highlights of items in local community newspapers.
- Better publicity for anonymous tip line (at bus stops, churches, etc.).
- Organize monthly neighborhood watch group meetings between residents, public safety officers and special police officers.
- Support the new Lower East Side Weed & Seed initiative.

PS3- Goal: Decrease crime and the public's perception of crime.

Strategies:

- Identify and then fence off prime “cut throughs” in the neighborhood.
- By collaborating with police and/or special police, work to break up gangs on street corners during hours of peak activity.
- Install better street lighting, building lighting, and cameras on street corners.
- Use consultants through the City of Buffalo to provide security for properties through environmental design.
- Hire police who live in the City limits.
- Provide safe zones for Broadway-Fillmore youth.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Develop methods to review and if needed correct inaccurate media reporting.
- Promote community events.

2. Parks (P) and Environment (E)

Special Neighborhood Parks Statement: Dangerous park areas in distressed areas must be addressed immediately. Broadway-Fillmore has two of these areas within its boundaries. The parks at Paderewski/Playter and Paderewski/Sears contain slabs of overgrown cement, which used to serve as basketball courts. In addition, broken fencing, rusted poles (only partially anchored in the ground), and broken glass make these sites more of a hazard than a benefit to the neighborhood and must be focused on for immediate improvement.

P1- Goal: Maintain and improve Broadway Fillmore’s existing parks- these parks include: Paderewski/Playter, Paderewski/Sears, and Martin Luther King (MLK) Park along Best Street, that abuts the East Buffalo GNPA. (See map titled “East Buffalo GNPA Parks and Recreation Facilities” on page 70).

Strategies:

- Broadway-Fillmore parks should receive the same resources and maintenance as parks across the City in portion to the parks size and use. These parks should be equipped with:
 - Lighting,
 - Emergency Phones,
 - Signage indicating the name of the park, hours, and contact number in case of damage or other problems,
 - Adequate seating,
 - Equipment in good repair, and
 - Drinking Fountain.
- MLK Park should receive the same resources and maintenance as parks across the City. This park should be equipped with:
 - Lighting,
 - Emergency Phones,
 - Signage indicating the name of the park, hours, and contact number in case of damage or other problems,
 - Adequate seating,

- Restrooms,
- Equipment in good repair, and
- Drinking Fountain.
- Develop a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule for Broadway Fillmore parks.
- Use Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a guide for maintaining parks and securing resources.
- Add new landscaping.
- Build new athletic facilities (such as sledding hills, wading pools, bike trails, skate parks and bocce ball courts).
- Have parks attendants available at all times who have first aid and CPR training. (Use Erie County Park Rangers.)

P2 - Goal: Promote Broadway Fillmore’s parks as both historical and regional assets.

Strategies:

- Recognize Martin Luther King Park (MLK), which abuts the East Buffalo GNPA, basin as a longstanding water feature.
- Encourage activities in MLK Park that cater to regional audiences like Juneteenth Festival.
- Hold more City-sponsored events at parks.
- Recognize Central Terminal property as a passive park, a park that has areas for sitting and picnicking without athletic fields and playgrounds.
- Recognize original Olmsted Parks, such as MLK Park as national treasures.
- Add passive parks into the existing Olmsted Parks System.



P3-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing pocket parks, small urban parks.

Strategies:

- Survey existing pocket parks within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
- Survey vacant parcels to identify potential pocket parks.

P4-Goal: Identify location for passive parks within the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- The creation of two passive parks would utilize large tracts of vacant, abandoned and otherwise derelict properties. This project would also address several issues simultaneously:
 - housing glut,
 - abandoned and derelict property,
 - utilize and maintain land in order to create a respite in the heart of the city,
 - provide environmentally sound housing that would encompass park areas, and
 - encourage population growth.

- Apply New Urbanism ideas in relation to parks and open spaces within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood where they would be most conducive and appropriate.

P5-Goal: Identify locations for green parkway system within the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Use the Olmsted Conservancy’s plan for green parkway systems as a guide for identification of this green parkway.
- Identify opportunities for landscape improvements.
- One concept is to create a green parkway parallel to Fillmore Avenue, establishing an Olmsted parkway connecting MLK Park to William Street, the Central Terminal, and eventually, the Buffalo River.
- A second concept, a “Vision for Cultural Row: Paderewski Drive Revitalization Proposal” (see Appendix F), recommends knitting together neighborhood assets to encourage heritage tourism, foster a sense of community, and re-establish this street’s original status as a grand approach to the Central Terminal. Streetscape improvements, marketing, and the creation of “Greenspace Alcoves” from vacant land bordering the street can lead to a new street experience in connection with nearby cultural attractions.
- A third concept is to demolish the remaining structures on north side of William Street (located between Fillmore and Jefferson Avenues). This would include the relocation of the health center. William Street would then be redesigned with a green median running its length.
- Recognize and develop Fillmore Avenue as an Olmsted Parkway.

E1-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing open green spaces.

Strategies:

- Survey existing green spaces within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

E2 - Goal: Preserve and enhance existing green spaces and urban natural resources.

Strategies:

- Extend the “natural heritage systems” outlined in the City of Buffalo’s Comprehensive Plan within the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood to the end of the City line to include land behind Stachowski-Houghton Park to sustain biodiversity.
- Work with various groups to plant trees, especially in Broadway Fillmore on Fillmore, Memorial, and Paderewski.
- Promote community gardening, composting and recycling programs.
- Support Corpus Christi’s plan to create a park like setting around the church.
- Promote using green spaces as buffers between residential and industrial properties.

E3 - Goal: Protect existing green spaces and urban natural resources from contamination.

Strategies:

- Pursue funding for brownfield remediation from the City of Buffalo and from external Western New York resources.

- Target pollution: clean sewers and systemically eliminate rats, open junk yards, illegal dumping, tire burning, business that wash barrels and hazardous material brought in through the railroad.

E4 - Goal: Better regulate businesses classified as junkyards.

Strategies:

- Inventory all existing junkyards within the GNPA, enforce regulation of them, and identify best practices to make them more neighborhood-friendly.
- Advocate for a temporary moratorium of 1 year by Common Council on any new or any expansion of businesses classified as junkyards so that the inventory and best practices referred to above can be established.
- Develop strategy to zone out junkyards.

3. Public Works (PW)

PW1 - Goal: Maintain and improve existing infrastructure pertaining to streets, lighting and sanitation.

Strategies:

- Repave entire streets; fix broken curbs and sidewalks.
- Inventory and preserve existing brick streets.
- Clean neighborhood streets and clean out the sewer system.
- Install proper street signage for trucks.
- Support the completion of the plan for Memorial Drive/Paderewski traffic circle in conjunction with Central Terminal Restoration Corporation and Buffalo Federation of Women’s Clubs.
- Consider green median as well as curb cuts and bump outs to enhance off-street parking on Broadway, as detailed in the Broadway Fillmore Strategic Plan.
- Request National Grid to put numbers back on streetlights and repair streetlights.
- Provide feedback to the City on the effectiveness on the division of sectors/areas for garbage trucks and plows.



PW2 - Goal: Improve and increase snow removal services and resources.

Strategies:

- Work with elected officials to ensure that major roads are plowed efficiently and effectively and in a timely manner.
- Encourage residents to move cars to community/residential parking lots to allow City plows to clear the streets.
- Install plows on the front of City garbage trucks.
- Suggest City of Buffalo purchase snow-melting equipment.
- Organize volunteers (Y.E.S.) through community centers and block clubs to assist with snow removal on residential streets and sidewalks. Partner with the City for support with acquiring equipment, training, insurance and storage and maintenance of equipment.

PW3 - Goal: Short term: Prohibit the expansion of existing or creation of new transfer stations in the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood by any organization or business other than the City of Buffalo at the South Ogden Station. Long term: Remove existing and prohibit new transfer stations from Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Confirm with zoning experts that zoning for CM-M3 prohibits transfer stations.
- Lobby the Common Council for changes to zoning to prohibit transfer stations from being put in or near Broadway Fillmore residential areas.
- Advocate against approval of new transfer stations by any organization or business at State and Federal level.
- Collaborate with other GNPA's on the elimination of transfer stations.

PW4 - Goal: Encourage residential recycling in Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Increase awareness among residents of the GNPA as to where they can obtain new or replacement recycling bins at designated community centers. (HomeFront, Matt Urban Center.)
- Support school involvement in the recycling program. For example, recycling poster contests and innovative/creative recycling education.



4. Economic Development (ED) and Historic Preservation (HP)

Special Neighborhood Economic Development Statement: Given the loss of population and what must be considered a limited potential for population growth, we must reasonably forecast retail for the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood. Broadway-Fillmore is currently one of the targeted Commercial Area Revitalization Effort (CARE) areas. The CARE program provides marketing and redevelopment planning assistance for seven areas. In addition to completing market analyses, this initiative provides support to local business in the target area. For example, the CARE program assists in business' security and façade maintenance. East Buffalo GNPA fully supports the progress made through the program and encourages the continued upgrade of this business district.

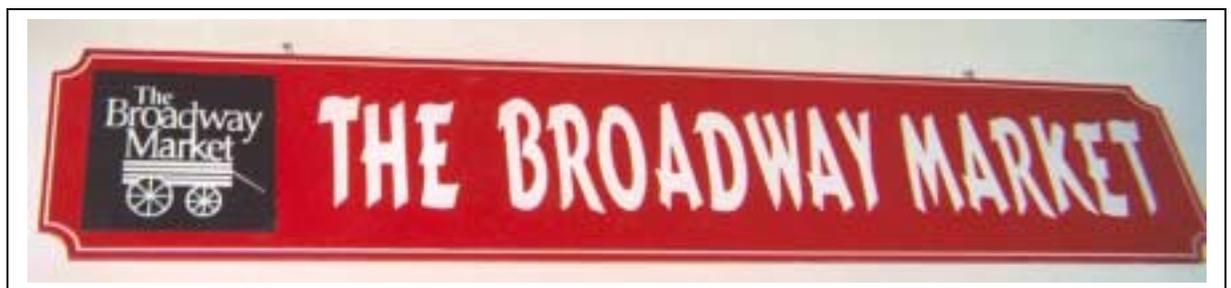
ED1 - Goal: Attract and retain businesses in Broadway Fillmore neighborhood's commercial areas that provide a wide range of services. (Suggestions include: pet stores, barber shops, pizza/restaurants, health food stores, museums, art/dance studios, bakeries, dental/doctor offices, ice cream parlors, shoe repair shoes, clothing stores, movie theaters and light manufacturers.)



Strategies:

- Capitalize on Broadway-Fillmore's CARE Area designation.
- Maintain a well-kept environment:
 - Add more trashcans to sidewalks.
 - Better enforcement of litter laws; develop more stringent laws.

- Plant more flowers.
- Install better lighting.
- Improve business signage.
- Develop design standards for storefronts in commercial areas.
- Build well-lit City parking lots on main business corridors with access off the main streets.
- Plant appropriate trees along business districts and neighborhood corridors.
- Provide support to small business development.
 - Operate BERC's small business office at the Broadway Market.
 - East Buffalo GNPA research and promote the creation or expansion of an East Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. (i.e. The Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce)
 - Work with BERC and Common Council to develop more/better tax incentives and low-interest loans for small businesses.
 - Inventory existing small business development programs and disseminate information in a tip sheet and/or maps about existing programs and agencies that support small businesses. See map titled "East Buffalo Selected Programs Focused on Commercial/Industrial Properties Map" which details some existing small business development programs on page 10.
 - Partner with local business entrepreneurs to do community workshops focusing on their methods for success.
 - Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
 - Create a marketing campaign to attract suburban customers to Broadway Fillmore businesses such as The Broadway Market using cultural diversity as a marketing tool.
 - Improve the public's image of Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.



- Develop an inventory of vacant commercial/industrial buildings within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
- Market available commercial/industrial buildings within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
- Support the creation and development of light office park within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
- Support Broadway Market Management Corporation's Strategic Plan.
 - Work with Broadway Market to assist their coinvestigators in producing a United States Department of Agriculture Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood Food Alliance strategy document for the Office of Strategic Planning.

ED2 - Goal: Increase access to consumer services that enhance livability.

Strategies:

- Research consumer services in commercial areas.
- Infill based on identified consumer services needs.
- Open more locally owned dry cleaners, Laundromats, drug stores, photocopy stores and department stores as prior research has indicated a need/want.
- Encourage banks to open on Saturdays.

HP1 - Goal: Build on strengths of existing neighborhood fabric emphasizing unique features and cultural heritage of the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Proceed with establishing a Broadway Fillmore Historic District as outlined by a working group established by Council President Franczyk.
- Work with local consultants to identify specific historic structures that qualify for national and local historic landmark recognition and protection within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
- Educate residents about historic preservation: what it means for their property and neighborhood, funding available and how to access funding.
- Preserve and maintain existing brick streets; promote neighborhood curb appeal.
- Support the initiatives of the Terminal Restoration Corporation's Strategic Plan. (in progress as of February 2006)
- Ensure that the Central Terminal provides public access and private uses.
- Find a variety of uses for local landmarks in Broadway Fillmore neighborhood (Broadway Market, Central Terminal, churches, etc.)
- Advocate the City to make every effort to preserve any and all properties that can be documented to have historical significance.



HP2 - Goal: All historic properties are up to code within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Inventory and research existing historic properties and/or buildings to be preserved and maintained according to government codes.

5. Schools (S), Libraries (L), and Youth (Y),

S1 - Goal: Update, repair, and expand existing public schools in Broadway Fillmore neighborhood to be comfortable and properly equipped for learning. See map of East Buffalo GNPA schools on page 77.

Strategies:

- Support the Joint Schools Construction Board projects in the Broadway Fillmore area:
 - In the efforts to improve our neighborhood, we must increase and support the services offered to our residents. Schools are very important to the growth of a healthy and sound community. In the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood, Public School #90 (Early Childhood Center, 50 A Street) has been renovated as part of Phase II of the Joint Schools Construction project. Through increasing the access to education facilities, the surrounding residential areas are bound to improve as well, both through this initiative and through the ingenuity of the local residents.
- Improve lighting around schools.
- Provide more books and computers to each public school.
- In the case of a public school closure, the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood would support reuse of that building by a Charter School.
- Research www.standup.org as a resource for all school strategies outlined in this plan.

S2 - Goal: Create or improve existing educational services provided to students by public schools.

Strategies:

- Place an increased emphasis on teaching and empowering students to respect themselves and others.
- Require and monitor that all students comprehend the basic skills at their grade level before passing to the next grade level.
- Reestablish full art and music classes.
- Promote smaller class sizes taught by well-paid and knowledgeable teachers.
- Support the Creative Educational Continuum Initiative, a cradle-to-college student and parent/care-giver enrichment program that involves the schools, neighborhoods, and human services organizations, which will be piloted in the Lovejoy neighborhood in 2006.
- Promote the reestablishment of the “Lighted School House Program” at Public School #44 Lincoln Academy, 1369 Broadway.
 - The “Lighted School House Program” was an initiative funded by a block grant in order to keep schools open after hours, from “dinner time” to 9:00 p.m. This time was allotted for activities for both youth and adults. Services provided included: education classes, arts & crafts, and sports & recreation. The City paid for staff to run the program. The “Lighted School House Program” only ran during the academic year.
 - Another possible venue for this program would be community centers near the public school such as the Matt Urban Center. It would be cost effective to run the program out of community centers since they often provide diverse programming for the community thereby already keeping later hours. Also, since these centers have staff there would not be a duplication of that cost.

S3 - Goal: Build neighborhoods around schools.

Strategies:

- Evaluate existing homes and support improvement of housing around schools.
- Demolish abandoned schools or find an immediate reuse. (Suggestions for reuse of public schools include: senior assistance living facilities, loft apartments (market rate), private office space, community center, and neighborhood high school as needed.)
- Promote smaller neighborhood schools and give neighborhood children the first right of refusal to attend a school in their neighborhood.
- Encourage the linkages between renovated/new schools with their surrounding neighborhoods.

L1-Goal: Support Fronczak neighborhood library. See map of East Buffalo GNPA libraries on page 79.

Strategies:

- Advocate to maintain the only library in the East Buffalo GNPA to remain open: East Clinton.
- Support Council Member's and/or community organizations that want to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries with volunteers (Mead, Fronczak).
- The East Clinton Library is in the official county library system. The Mead and Fronczak libraries would become affiliates. Book borrowing and returning would be channeled through one library, East Clinton.
- Create an advisory group from Broadway-Fillmore and Lovejoy neighborhoods to advocate and solicit funds to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries.

Y1 - Goal: Provide safe zones for youth in Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Continue to promote the "Drug and Weapon Free Zones" around all schools in the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
 - Ensure good signage.
 - Neighborhood residents partner with FBI to enforce the zones.
- Increase presence and visibility of Buffalo Police.

Y2 - Goal: Create more jobs, programs, and activities for youth in Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Promote youth programs that engage community members through;
 1. *Community Volunteerism*
Offer a Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S) program modeled after the AmeriCorps Y.E.S Program provided by the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. This is a volunteer program that provides teens (12-18) the opportunity to become contributing members of society. Y.E.S. volunteers provide community service through direct interaction with children, senior citizens, and the emotionally and physically challenged.
 2. *Education*
Through several partnerships, residents could gain access to a variety of educational services.

- South Buffalo Education Center: to provide GED classes and free computer classes.
- Deamen College's Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement: to provide after school tutoring for children and youth.
- City of Buffalo: develop, support and promote programs such as YO! Buffalo (Youth Opportunity Movement). The Yo! Program targets youth (16-21) who have dropped out of high school and are functioning at or below an eighth grade level in reading and math. Yo! offers job opportunities, transportation, and supplies to responsible participants. Employers who participate in the program receive the benefits of either a full or 51% wage subsidy, depending upon the level of employment. Involved youth may transition directly into working for the organizations they are placed with and become eligible to receive tuition assistance to pursue formal training in the field. This program currently operates in three Federal Empowerment Zones in Buffalo, including on the West Side where it operates through the Belle Center.

3 Professional Training

Provide resume writing classes and job interview workshops. Partner with such groups as the Babcock Community Association, "Youth Build," and other organizations to provide trade apprenticeship programs. "Youth Build" is a nation-wide program that offers youth (16-24) real life training and job experience while also providing education classes, counseling services, and leadership development opportunities.

- Develop Children's Community Gardens. (Children's gardens offer an opportunity to add to the aesthetics of Broadway-Fillmore while giving the children a valuable resource. A children's garden could be developed on a vacant site. Sites should be chosen close to community organizations offering youth activities for convenience and easy maintenance of the garden.)
- Support current programming at the various community centers within the East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods; see map of community centers on page 82.

6. Housing (H) and Vacant Lots (VL)

Special Neighborhood Housing and Vacant Lots Statement: Building on the existing assets and strengths of the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood as well as through the rise of brand new initiatives, opportunities for growth and revitalization will occur. These opportunities will be the product of work of existing and new institutions, the City of Buffalo, business groups, community groups, the Board of Education, and other entities. They will involve new investments. Broadway Fillmore community members, working with the GNPA, will endeavor to continually work to identify these new opportunities, assess their "spillover effects", and the feasibility of connecting them with new efforts for improving the housing and vacant lot situation surrounding these new areas of growth and revitalization. This will ensure that opportunities are not missed, and will maximize their potential for improving the community.

H1 - Goal: Redevelop the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood's housing stock and increase housing options.

Strategies:

- Implement the following housing redevelopment priorities:
 - Rehab owner-occupied homes,
 - Acquire and rehab abandoned homes.
 - Build new homes including townhouses/condos for active seniors and singles,
 - Rehab two unit buildings that are owner occupied,
 - Reduce the number of units in a multi unit property from three units to one unit, and
 - Encourage affordable housing for seniors and people with special needs.
 - If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood.

- All housing development priorities will have a focus on owner occupancy and building around schools as well as a long-term objective to build or rehab homes with an emphasis on people being able to stay in their homes regardless of age or special needs.
- These priorities should be focused in Broadway-Fillmore around
 - Schools,
 - Broadway Market,
 - Religious Institutions such as Corpus Christi and its planned senior village, and St. Stan's on Townsend and Peckham,
 - Target Streets identified by housing agencies (such as Warren, Memorial Drive, Paderewski, and Gibson),
 - Central Terminal.
- Working with housing agencies, identify and increase community resources to support housing redevelopment and housing maintenance.
 - Hold a construction company competition to rehab homes.
 - Partner with and encourage Habitat for Humanity to work in targeted areas and focus on sweat equity.
 - Identify local funding and in kind resources for Habitat for Humanity to use on specific neighborhood projects.
 - Advocate to the City to pursue non-public funding for homeowners at 80% or over median income guidelines for housing rehab.
 - Encourage continuation of City of Buffalo practice of having housing agencies that contract with the City of Buffalo collaborate with the GNPA.
 - Collaborating with business associations and Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce to implement a discount card program for area residents from local vendors for minor home repairs.
 - Research and advocate for the use of green architecture in the redevelopment of homes where appropriate.
- Support the Matt Urban Center's Housing Opportunity Area Plan for acquisition, rehabilitation, owner occupied rehabilitation and new residential homes surrounding the Darul-Uloom Al Madania Mosque. This area is bound by Broadway to the south, Walden Ave. to the north, including Loepere to the west and Rother Street to the east.
- Follow through on existing plans.
- Monitor the use of federal housing funds.

H2 - Goal: Increase homeownership and owner occupancy within the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood. See map titled “Broadway-Fillmore Owner- vs Renter-Occupied Residential Properties Map” on page 21.

Strategies:

- Promote programs/funds available for first time homebuyers.
- Prioritize available funds to existing residents/homeowners.
- Rehab vacant apartments to be owner occupied. Do not rehab properties that will be owned by absentee landlords.
- Encourage post-homebuying education classes to assist homeowners in maintaining and improving their homes.

H3 - Goal: Hold individuals accountable for owning/renting dilapidated houses.

Strategies:

- Advocate to the City of Buffalo for strict enforcement of the laws and penalties already on the books, more fines (garnish wages) and jail time, and to work with inspectors and members of block clubs and follow their recommendations.
- Encourage enforcement of Section 8 standards for both the property and tenants living in the property.
- Implement tenant and landlord education programs that promote responsibility.
- Provide collaboration and support to Housing Court Judge Henry Nowak for his programs involving receivership and other tools to bring homes into compliance with housing codes.

H4 - Goal: Eliminate predatory lending.

Strategies:

- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to put limit on the number of properties that an individual can buy at any given time through City auctions or foreclosures.
- Recommend that no more than 10 homes be allowed for purchase at any given time unless an individual has a positive proven track record.
- Require background checks; work with the City to require full disclosure by a buyer for City auctions and foreclosures and HUD sales, particularly on-line sales.
- Recommend that the City not consummate a sale until a background check has been done; give 3-5 business days for the background check to be completed.
- Promote credit-counseling programs to first time homebuyers.
- Support “Buffalo Don’t Borrow Trouble”, a consumer education program of the Buffalo Urban League.

H5 - Goal: Smart-target demolition planning.

Strategies:

- In order to target demolition effectively, priority is given to homes and areas where frail populations (children and elderly) live, play, go to school, and work.

VL1 - Goal: Maintain existing vacant lots and redevelop them into neighborhood assets.

Strategies:

- Do inventory of existing vacant lots and identify their owners.
- Support the City of Buffalo's Vacant Land, Buildings and Facilities Asset Management (VLBFAM) Program to establish neighborhood inventories, set local priorities, and coordinate walk throughs of the neighborhoods to map and identify areas that are being used as junkyards. With the completion of the Program's report and strategy, assess the applicability of their recommendations to the neighborhood.
- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to implement and enforce a maintenance plan for non-City owned lots. The City could generate revenue through taxes on these lots. Recommend the revenue created pay for the contracting of monitoring and enforcement services by a private company.
- Promote Homesteading.
- Use vacant lots to increase lot space for community/residential parking lots, side yards and garages.
- Develop Children's Community Gardens.

7. Transportation (T)

T1 - Goal: Maintain and upgrade transportation in Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Preserve existing infrastructure
- Preserve and improve pavement of all streets.
- Repair and replace bridges as necessary.
- Inventory and preserve existing brick streets.
- Realign streets to provide for better circulation.

T2 - Goal: Improve and expand public transportation.

Strategies:

- Increase use of public transit and para-transit.
- Target neighborhood clean up projects around public transit stops.
- Identify existing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) stops that need to be improved (i.e. benches/signage).
- Advocate for the identification of new bus shelters where needed.
- Encourage NFTA to place permanently affixed schedules at each bus stop within the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
- Advocate NFTA to make available a map of all bus routes.
- Have the name of each bus stop on the sign for the bus stop.
- Work in collaboration with Citizens Regional Transit Corporation to improve and expand public transportation.

T3 - Goal: Improve mobility and accessibility.

Strategies:

- Implement inter-modal system.

- Identify and implement bicycle infrastructure.
- Promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicles (SOV).
- Educate residents on transportation issues.

T4 - Goal: Use transportation for economic opportunities.

Strategies:

- Employ transportation services which promote higher density.
- Encourage efficient public transportation through existing business corridors to increase employment opportunities.
- Provide for efficient and reliable freight service by rail or truck.
- Promote accessibility to tourist destinations.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Make transportation infrastructure friendly to tourists/visitors.
- Emphasize the impact of Joseph Ellicott's work.

T5 - Goal: Affect transportation policy to improve quality of life.

Strategies:

- Mitigate environment impacts of transportation activities.
- Employ traffic calming methods in residential areas.
- Decrease energy consumption.
- Encourage and enhance non-motorized transportation.
- Request City to stripe or mark all pedestrian crossings within Broadway Fillmore neighborhood.
- Time all signaled intersections to allow for safe crossing by the frailest of pedestrians.

T6 - Goal: Improve transportation and land use coordination.

Strategies:

- Coordinate the regional, city, and neighborhood transportation and land use plans such as this neighborhood plan.
- Encourage mixed-use development by providing multi-modal transportation connections.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Incorporate land use model with transportation planning.
- Affect efficient transportation for higher densities.
- Study existing and proposed streets to ensure good service for new housing.

T7 - Goal: Work with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and NFTA to understand existing and future transportation plans for the East Buffalo GNPA area.

Strategies:

- Request GBNRTC and/or NYSDOT to make available planning tools at the neighborhood level (GIS information, access to data and reports, funding for planning expertise).

- Involve GNPA in the Transportation Improvement Program development process of GBNRTC.
- Establish methods for GNPA needs identification to be routed to the Planning and Coordinating Committee of GBNRTC.
- GNPA should be able to initiate Initial Project Proposal Submissions. GNPA can add specific local and private information not readily available to planners at a broader geographic or broader governance level (i.e. regional, state, federal levels).
- GNPA should provide feedback as an advisory group to transportation needs identified by NYSDOT.
- Neighborhood input, through GNPA, should be referenced and recognized during implementation of successful projects.
- Integrate NFTA service with that offered by other transportation providers to increase mobility and access, enhance inter-communication and scheduling. For example, project submitted to NYSDOT by Buffalo Community Center Collaborative.
- Support GBNRTC proposal to expand rail service from central business district downtown to the airport.
 - Support incremental steps to increase bus service from central business district downtown to the airport.
- Specific suggestions for Initial Project Proposals include:
 - Improve Clinton Street and replace bridges on Clinton Street from Jefferson Avenue to City Line.
 - Realign/Improve William Street from Jefferson Avenue to Fillmore Avenue.
 - Realign/Improve Paderewski Street from Fillmore Avenue westward.
 - Implement Wilson Street Greenway from MLK Park to William Street.
 - Mill and Resurface more residential streets.
 - Make Landscape Improvements on: Fillmore Avenue (Olmsted Parkway), Broadway, Fillmore, Memorial, Seneca, Sycamore, Walden.
 - Add bus shelters and pedestrian furniture on Broadway.

4b. Emerson

1. Police and Public Safety (PS)

PS1- Goal: Increase presence and visibility of police officers.

Strategies:

- Use foot patrols, scooters and bikes in residential areas.
- Improve police presence at parks. (Use Erie County Park Rangers to patrol parks.)
- Expand the special police officer patrol program throughout East Buffalo provided that the special police have the needed liability insurance required under city charter.

PS2- Goal: Improve the communication and relationships between residents and police.

Strategies:

- Develop a long-term system for residents to safely and anonymously report crimes.
 - Print “Problem Property” tips sheets in each neighborhood in local community newspapers.
 - Promote and distribute items published by local government officials including “Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Right Now “ and the “Neighborhood Impact Statement” (County of Erie Office of the District Attorney’s Community Prosecution Bureau) and “Solutions for a Better Quality of Life: A Guide to Solving Neighborhood Issues” (Assemblymember Sam Hoyt & Judge Henry J. Nowak, Buffalo City Housing Court) to block clubs, churches, businesses and non-profits. Also, print highlights of items in local community newspapers.
- Better publicity for anonymous tip line (at bus stops, churches, etc.).
- Organize monthly neighborhood watch group meetings between residents, public safety officers and special police officers.
- Support the new Lower East Side Weed & Seed initiative.

PS3- Goal: Decrease crime and the public’s perception of crime.

Strategies:

- Identify and then fence off prime “cut throughs” in neighborhoods.
- By collaborating with police and/or special police, work to break up gangs on street corners during hours of peak activity.
- Install better street lighting and building lighting and cameras on street corners.
- Use consultants through the City of Buffalo to provide security for properties through environmental design.
- Hire police who live in the City limits.
- Provide safe zones for Emerson youth.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Develop methods to review and if needed correct inaccurate media reporting.
- Promote community events.

2. Parks (P) and Environment (E)

Special Neighborhood Parks Statement: When 40 East Buffalo residents toured the parks in October 2003, they found that two of East Buffalo's highest use, multi-acre parks had broken equipment, no lighting, no bathrooms and no signage. Dangerous abandoned houses and other structures immediately surrounding Emerson parks and must be demolished, secured or otherwise addressed. These parks, Hank Nowak Park and Emerson Park are most in need of immediate improvements.



Goals: P1- Goal: Maintain and improve Emerson's two designated existing parks, which include Hank Nowak and Emerson. See parks map on page 70.

Strategies:

- Emerson parks should receive the same resources and maintenance as parks across the City. Every park should be equipped with:
 - Lighting,
 - Emergency Phones,
 - Signage indicating the name of the park, hours, and contact number in case of damage or other problems,
 - Adequate seating,
 - Restrooms,
 - Equipment in good repair, and
 - Drinking Fountain.
- Develop a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule for parks.
- Use Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a guide for maintaining parks and securing resources.
- Add new landscaping.
- Build new athletic facilities (such as sledding hills, wading pools, bike trails, skate parks and bocce ball courts).
- Have parks attendants available at all times who have first aid and CPR training. (Use Erie County Park Rangers.)

P2 - Goal: Promote Emerson's parks as neighborhood assets.

Strategies:

- Hold more neighborhood-sponsored events at parks.
- Add passive parks into the existing Olmsted Parks System.

P3-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing pocket parks, small urban parks within Emerson.

Strategies:

- Survey existing pocket parks.
- Survey vacant parcels to identify potential pocket parks.

P4-Goal: Identify locations for passive parks within Emerson neighborhood.

Strategies:

- The creation of passive parks should utilize large tracts of vacant, abandoned and otherwise derelict properties. This project would also address several issues simultaneously:
 - housing glut,
 - abandoned and derelict property,
 - utilize and maintain land in order to create a respite in the heart of the city,
 - provide environmentally sound housing that would encompass park areas, and
 - encourage population growth.
- Apply New Urbanism ideas in relation to parks and open spaces within Emerson, where they would be most conducive and appropriate.

P5-Goal: Identify locations for green parkway system within Emerson neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Use the Olmsted Conservancy's plan for green parkway systems as a guide for identification of this green parkway.
- Identify opportunities for landscape improvements.

E1-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing open green spaces.

Strategies:

- Survey existing green spaces.

E2 - Goal: Preserve and enhance existing green spaces and urban natural resources.

Strategies:

- Work with various groups to plant trees.
- Promote community gardening, composting and recycling programs.
- Promote using green spaces as buffers between residential and industrial properties.

E3 - Goal: Protect existing green spaces and urban natural resources from contamination.

Strategies:

- Pursue funding for brownfield remediation from the City of Buffalo and from external Western New York resources.
- Target pollution: clean sewers and systemically eliminate rats, open junk yards, illegal dumping, tire burning, business that wash barrels and hazardous material brought in through the railroad.

E4 - Goal: Better regulate businesses classified as junkyards.

Strategies:

- Inventory all existing junkyards within the GNPA, enforce regulation of them, and identify best practices to make them more neighborhood-friendly.
- Advocate for a temporary moratorium of 1 year by Common Council on any new or any expansion of businesses classified as junkyards so that the inventory and best practices referred to above can be established.
- Develop strategy to zone out junkyards.

3. Public Works (PW)

PW1 - Goal: Maintain and improve existing infrastructure pertaining to streets, lighting and sanitation.

Strategies:

- Repave entire streets; fix broken curbs and sidewalks.
- Preserve existing brick streets.
- Clean neighborhood streets and clean out the sewer system.
- Install proper street signage for trucks.
- Request National Grid to put numbers back on streetlights and repair streetlights.
- Provide feedback to the City on the effectiveness on the division of sectors/areas for garbage trucks and plows.



PW2 - Goal: Improve and increase snow removal services and resources.

Strategies:

- Work with elected officials to ensure that major roads are plowed efficiently and effectively and in a timely manner.
- Encourage residents move cars to community/residential parking lots to allow City plows to clear the streets.
- Install plows on the front of City garbage trucks.
- Suggest City of Buffalo purchase snow-melting equipment.
- Organize volunteers (Y.E.S.) through community centers and block clubs to assist with snow removal on residential streets and sidewalks. Partner with the City for support with acquiring equipment, training, insurance and storage and maintenance of equipment.

PW3 - Goal: Short term: Prohibit the expansion of existing or creation of new transfer stations in the Emerson neighborhood by any organization or business other than the City of Buffalo at the South Ogden Station. Long term: Remove existing and prohibit new transfer stations from East Buffalo GNPA.

Strategies:

- Confirm with zoning experts that zoning for CM-M3 prohibits transfer stations.
- Lobby the Common Council for changes to zoning to prohibit transfer stations from being put in or near residential areas.

- Advocate against approval of new transfer stations by any organization or business at State and Federal level.
- Collaborate with other GNPA's on the elimination of transfer stations.

PW4 - Goal: Encourage residential recycling.

Strategies:

- Increase awareness among residents of Emerson as to where they can obtain new or replacement recycling bins at designated community centers. (HomeFront, Matt Urban Center)
- Support school involvement in the recycling program. For example, recycling poster contests and innovative/creative recycling education.

4. Economic Development (ED) and Historic Preservation (HP)

ED1 - Goal: Attract and retain businesses in Emerson's commercial areas that provide a wide range of services. (Suggestions include: pet stores, barber shops, pizza/restaurants, health food stores, museums, art/dance studios, bakeries, dental/doctor offices, ice cream parlors, shoe repair shoes, clothing stores, movie theaters and light manufacturers.)

Strategies:

- Maintain a well-kept environment:
 - Add more trashcans to sidewalks.
 - Better enforcement of litter laws; develop more stringent laws.
 - Plant more flowers.
 - Install better lighting.
 - Improve business signage.
 - Develop design standards for storefronts in commercial areas.
 - Build well-lit City parking lots on main business corridors with access off the main streets.
 - Plant appropriate trees along business districts and neighborhood corridors.
- Provide support to small business development.
 - East Buffalo GNPA research and promote the creation or expansion of an East Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. (ie. The Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce)
 - Work with BERC and Common Council to develop more/better tax incentives and low-interest loans for small businesses.
 - Inventory existing small business development programs and disseminate information in a tip sheet and/or maps about existing programs and agencies that support small businesses. See map titled "East Buffalo Selected Programs Focused on Commercial/Industrial Properties Map" which identifies some programs which may assist in small business development on page 10.
 - Partner with local business entrepreneurs to do community workshops focusing on their methods for success.
 - Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.

- Create a marketing campaign to attract suburban customers to Emerson businesses using cultural diversity as a marketing tool.
- Improve the public's image of Emerson.
- Develop an inventory of vacant commercial/industrial buildings.
- Market available commercial/industrial buildings through economic development agencies and small business associations.
- Support the creation and development of light office parks.

ED2 - Goal: Increase access to consumer services that enhance livability.

Strategies:

- Research consumer services in commercial areas.
- Infill based on identified consumer services needs.
- Open more locally owned dry cleaners, Laundromats, drug stores, photocopy stores and department stores as prior research has indicated a need/want.
- Encourage banks to open on Saturdays.

HP1 - Goal: Build on strengths of existing neighborhood fabric emphasizing unique features and cultural heritage.

Special Neighborhood Historic Preservation Statement:

Concordia Cemetery is a historic cemetery located at 438 Walden Avenue. It was founded in Buffalo in 1859. A non-profit entity was established to restore and rehabilitate this distressed property. Much has been done to repair, restore and revitalize the property but a great deal more remains to be done. Volunteers meet every Saturday at Concordia Cemetery to work on projects.

The East Buffalo GNPA would like to propose expansion of Concordia Cemetery through the use of surrounding vacant lots, if feasible. A suggested location for the expansion of Concordia Cemetery is the property between Emerson and Nowak Parks (not including the property fronting Sycamore Street) should this area cease to be viable as an area for residential housing and an alternative use is sought. This land would be maintained as parkland and be reserved for future expansion of the cemetery. The project would be accomplished with the help and support of volunteer groups.

Strategies:

- Work with local consultants to identify specific historic structures that qualify for national and local historic landmark recognition and protection.
- Educate residents about historic preservation: what it means for their property and neighborhood, funding available and how to access funding.
- Preserve and maintain existing brick streets; promote neighborhood curb appeal.
- Find a variety of uses for local landmarks (churches, etc.).
- Advocate the City to make every effort to preserve any and all properties that can be documented to have historical significance.

HP2 - Goal: All historic properties are up to code.

Strategies:

- Inventory and research existing historic properties and/or buildings to be preserved and maintained according to government codes.

5. Schools (S), Libraries (L), and Youth (Y)

S1 - Goal: Update, repair, and expand existing public schools to be comfortable and properly equipped for learning. See schools map on page 77.

Strategies:

- Support the Joint Schools Construction Board projects in the Emerson neighborhood: Phase I school construction is complete of Emerson High School-PS #302, 1405 Sycamore Street. Emerson High School was remodeled and renovated as part of the Joint Schools Construction project. Through increasing the access to education facilities, the surrounding residential areas are bound to improve as well, both through this initiative and the ingenuity of the local residents.
- Improve lighting and sidewalks around schools.
- Provide more books and computers to each public school.
- In the case of a public school closure, the neighborhood would support reuse of that building by a Charter School.
- Research www.standup.org as a resource for all school strategies outlined in this plan.

S2 - Goal: Create or improve existing services provided to students by public schools.

Strategies:

- Place an increased emphasis on teaching and empowering students to respect themselves and others.
- Require and monitor that all students comprehend the basic skills at their grade level before passing to the next grade level.
- Reestablish full art, music and history classes.
- Promote smaller class sizes taught by well-paid and knowledgeable teachers.
- Support the Creative Educational Continuum, a cradle-to-college student and parent/care-giver enrichment program that involves the schools, neighborhoods, and human services organizations.
- The GNPA is promoting after school programs for use. In areas where there are no community centers we recommend that the school provide the “Lighted School House Program.”
 - The “Lighted School House Program” is an initiative funded by a block grant in order to keep schools open after hours, from “dinner time” to 9:00 p.m. This time was allotted for activities for both youth and adults. Services provided included: education classes, arts & crafts, and sports & recreation.

S3 - Goal: Build neighborhoods around schools.

Strategies:

- Evaluate existing homes and support improvement of housing around schools.
- Demolish abandoned schools or find an immediate reuse. (Suggestions for reuse of public schools include: senior assistance living facilities, loft apartments (market rate), private office space, community center, and neighborhood high school as needed.)
- Promote smaller neighborhood schools and give neighborhood children the first right of refusal to attend a school in their neighborhood.
- Encourage the linkages between renovated/new schools with their surrounding neighborhoods.

Y1 - Goal: Provide safe zones for Emerson youth.

Strategies:

- Continue to promote the “Drug and Weapon Free Zones,” which carry stiffer penalties for violations.
 - Ensure good signage.
 - Neighborhood residents partner with FBI to enforce the zones.
- Increase presence and visibility of Buffalo Police.

Y2 - Goal: Create more jobs, programs and activities for youth.

Strategies:

- Promote youth programs that engage community members through;
 1. *Community Volunteerism*

Offer a Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S) program modeled after the AmeriCorps Y.E.S Program provided by the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. This is a volunteer program that provides teens (12-18) the opportunity to become contributing members of society. Y.E.S. volunteers provide community service through direct interaction with children, senior citizens, and the emotionally and physically challenged.
 2. *Education*

Through several partnerships, residents could gain access to a variety of educational services.

 - South Buffalo Education Center: to provide GED classes and free computer classes.
 - Deamen College’s Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement: to provide after school tutoring for children and youth.
 - City of Buffalo: develop, support and promote programs such as YO! Buffalo (Youth Opportunity Movement). The Yo! Program targets youth (16-21) who have dropped out of high school and are functioning at or below an eighth grade level in reading and math. Yo! offers job opportunities, transportation, and supplies to responsible participants. Employers who participate in the program receive the benefits of either a full or 51% wage subsidy, depending upon the level of employment. Involved youth may transition directly into working for the organizations they are placed with and become eligible to receive tuition assistance to pursue formal training in the field. This program

currently operates in three Federal Empowerment Zones in Buffalo, including on the West Side where it operates through the Belle Center.

3 Professional Training

Provide resume writing classes and job interview workshops. Partner with such groups as the Babcock Community Association, “Youth Build,” and other organizations to provide trade apprenticeship programs. “Youth Build” is a nation-wide program that offers youth (16-24) real life training and job experience while also providing education classes, counseling services, and leadership development opportunities.

- Develop Children’s Community Gardens. (Children’s gardens offer an opportunity to add to the aesthetics of Emerson while giving the children a valuable resource. A children’s garden could be developed on a vacant site. Sites should be chosen close to community organizations offering youth activities for convenience and easy maintenance of the garden.)
- Support current programming at the various community centers within the East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods, see map on page 82.

6. Housing (H) and Vacant Lots (VL)

Special Neighborhood Housing Statement

In keeping with the idea that East Buffalo should build on its assets, the GNPA encourages the rehabilitation of homes, in the same style of the neighborhood, especially in the area immediately around the new Harvey Austin School (former Emerson High School). In the ongoing promotion of a healthy neighborhood, this is the first area to target. Demolition and rehabilitation could then occur throughout the remainder of the neighborhood in coordination with broader redevelopment concepts (for example, the one described in Goal HP-1 for the Emerson neighborhood above.)

H1 - Goal: Redevelop Emerson’s housing stock and increase housing options.

Strategies:

- Implement housing redevelopment priorities specific to each neighborhood’s needs and assets. The housing redevelopment priorities to be implemented include:
 - Rehab owner-occupied homes,
 - Acquire and rehab abandoned homes,
 - Build new homes including townhouses/condos for active seniors and singles,
 - Rehab two unit buildings that are owner occupied,
 - Encourage affordable housing for seniors.
 - If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood.
- All housing development priorities will have a focus on owner occupancy and building around schools as well as a long-term objective to build or rehab homes with an emphasis on people being able to stay in their homes regardless of age or special needs. Working with housing agencies, identify and increase community resources to support housing redevelopment and housing maintenance.
 - Hold a construction company competition to rehab homes.

- Partner with and encourage Habitat for Humanity to work in targeted areas and focus on sweat equity.
 - Identify local funding and in kind resources for Habitat for Humanity to use on specific neighborhood projects.
 - Advocate to the City to pursue non-public funding for homeowners at 80% or over median income guidelines for housing rehab.
 - Encourage continuation of City of Buffalo practice of having housing agencies that contract with the City of Buffalo collaborate with the GNPA.
 - Collaborating with business associations and Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce to implement a discount card program for area residents from local vendors for minor home repairs.
 - Research and advocate for the use of green architecture in the redevelopment of homes where appropriate.
- Follow through on existing plans.
 - Monitor the use of federal housing funds.

H2 - Goal: Increase homeownership and owner occupancy. See map titled “Emerson Owner-vs. Renter-Occupied Residential Properties Map” on page 32.

Strategies:

- Promote programs/funds available for first time homebuyers.
- Prioritize available funds to existing residents/homeowners.
- Rehab vacant apartments to be owner occupied. Do not rehab properties that will be owned by absentee landlords.
- Encourage post-homebuying education classes to assist homeowners in maintaining and improving their homes.

H3 - Goal: Hold individuals accountable for owning/renting dilapidated houses.

Strategies:

- Advocate to the City of Buffalo for strict enforcement of the laws and penalties already on the books, more fines (garnish wages) and jail time, and to work with inspectors and members of block clubs and follow their recommendations.
- Encourage enforcement of Section 8 standards for both the property and tenants living in the property.
- Implement tenant and landlord education programs that promote responsibility.
- Provide collaboration and support to Housing Court Judge Henry Nowak for his programs involving receivership and other tools to bring homes into compliance with housing codes.

H4 - Goal: Eliminate predatory lending.

Strategies:

- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to put limit on the number of properties that an individual can buy at any given time through City auctions or foreclosures.
- Recommend that no more than 10 homes be allowed for purchase at any given time unless an individual has a positive proven track record.

- Require background checks; work with the City to require full disclosure by a buyer for City auctions and foreclosures and HUD sales, particularly on-line sales.
- Recommend that the City not consummate a sale until a background check has been done; give 3-5 business days for the background check to be completed.
- Promote credit-counseling programs to first time homebuyers.
- Support “Buffalo Don’t Borrow Trouble”, a consumer education program of the Buffalo Urban League.

H5 - Goal: Smart-target demolition planning.

Strategies:

- In order to target demolition effectively, priority is given to homes and areas where frail populations (children and elderly) live, play, go to school, and work.

VL1 - Goal: Maintain existing vacant lots and redevelop them into neighborhood assets.

Strategies:

- Do inventory of existing vacant lots and identify their owners.
- Support the City of Buffalo’s Vacant Land, Buildings and Facilities Asset Management (VLBFAM) Program to establish neighborhood inventories, set local priorities, and coordinate walk throughs of the neighborhoods to map and identify areas that are being used as junkyards. With the completion of the Program’s report and strategy, assess the applicability of their recommendations to the neighborhood.
- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to implement and enforce a maintenance plan for non-City owned lots. The City could generate revenue through taxes on these lots. Recommend the revenue created pay for the contracting of monitoring and enforcement services by a private company.
- Promote Homesteading.
- Use vacant lots to increase lot space for community/residential parking lots, side yards and garages.
- Develop Children’s Community Gardens.

7. Transportation (T)

T1 - Goal: Maintain and upgrade transportation in Emerson.

Strategies:

- Preserve existing infrastructure.
- Preserve and improve pavement of all streets.
- Repair and replace bridges as necessary.
- Inventory and preserve existing brick streets.

T2 - Goal: Improve and expand public transportation.

Strategies:

- Increase use of public transit and para-transit.
- Target neighborhood clean up projects around public transit stops.

- Identify existing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) stops that need to be improved (i.e. benches/signage).
- Advocate for the identification of new bus shelters where needed.
- Encourage NFTA to place permanently affixed schedules at each bus stop within the Emerson neighborhood.
- Advocate NFTA to make available a map of all bus routes.
- Have the name of each bus stop on the sign for the bus stop.
- Work in collaboration with Citizens Regional Transit Corporation to improve and expand public transportation.

T3 - Goal: Improve mobility and accessibility.

Strategies:

- Implement inter-modal system.
- Identify and implement bicycle infrastructure.
- Promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicles (SOV).
- Educate residents on transportation issues.

T4 - Goal: Use transportation for economic opportunities.

Strategies:

- Employ transportation services which promote higher density.
- Encourage efficient public transportation through existing business corridors to increase employment opportunities.
- Provide for efficient and reliable freight service by rail or truck.
- Promote accessibility to tourist destinations.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Make transportation infrastructure friendly to tourists/visitors.
- Emphasize the impact of Joseph Ellicott's work.

T5 - Goal: Affect transportation policy to improve quality of life.

Strategies:

- Mitigate environment impacts of transportation activities.
- Employ traffic calming methods in residential areas.
- Decrease energy consumption.
- Encourage and enhance non-motorized transportation.
- Request City to stripe or mark all pedestrian crossings.
- Time all signaled intersections to allow for safe crossing by the frailest of pedestrians.

T6 - Goal: Improve transportation and land use coordination.

Strategies:

- Coordinate the regional, city, and neighborhood transportation and land use plans such as this neighborhood plan.
- Encourage mixed-use development by providing multi-modal transportation connections.

- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Incorporate land use model with transportation planning.

T7 - Goal: Work with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and NFTA to understand existing and future transportation plans for the Emerson neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Request GBNRTC and/or NYSDOT to make available planning tools at the neighborhood level (GIS information, access to data and reports, funding for planning expertise).
- Involve GNPA in the Transportation Improvement Program development process of GBNRTC.
- Establish methods for GNPA needs identification to be routed to the Planning and Coordinating Committee of GBNRTC.
- GNPA should be able to initiate Initial Project Proposal Submissions. GNPA can add specific local and private information not readily available to planners at a broader geographic or broader governance level (i.e. regional, state, federal levels).
- GNPA should provide feedback as an advisory group to transportation needs identified by NYSDOT.
- Neighborhood input, through GNPA, should be referenced and recognized during implementation of successful projects.
- Integrate NFTA service with that offered by other transportation providers to increase mobility and access, enhance inter-communication and scheduling. For example, project submitted to NYSDOT by Buffalo Community Center Collaborative.
- Support GBNRTC proposal to expand rail service from central business district downtown to the airport.
 - Support incremental steps to increase bus service from central business district downtown to the airport.
- Specific suggestions for Initial Project Proposals include:
 - Improve Clinton Street and replace bridges on Clinton Street from Jefferson Avenue to City Line.
 - Realign/Improve William Street from Jefferson Avenue to Fillmore Avenue.
 - Realign/Improve Paderewski Street from Fillmore Avenue westward.
 - Implement Wilson Street Greenway from MLK Park to William Street.
 - Mill and Resurface more residential streets.
 - Make Landscape Improvements on: Fillmore Avenue (Olmsted Parkway), Broadway, Fillmore, Memorial, Seneca, Sycamore, Walden.
 - Add bus shelters and pedestrian furniture on Broadway.

4c. Lovejoy

1. Police and Public Safety (PS)

PS1- Goal: Increase presence and visibility of police officers.

Strategies:

- Use foot patrols, scooters and bikes in commercial and residential areas.
- Use mounted sheriff patrols in commercial areas.
- Improve police presence at parks. (Use Erie County Park Rangers to patrol parks.)
- Expand the special police officer patrol program throughout Lovejoy provided that the special police have the needed liability insurance required under city charter.
- Restore Police Station District C Annex, 1345 Bailey Avenue.

PS2- Goal: Improve the communication and relationships between residents and police.

Strategies:

- Develop a long-term system for residents to safely and anonymously report crimes.
 - Print “Problem Property” tips sheets in each neighborhood in local community newspapers.
 - Promote and distribute items published by local government officials including “Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Right Now “ and the “Neighborhood Impact Statement” (County of Erie Office of the District Attorney’s Community Prosecution Bureau) and “Solutions for a Better Quality of Life: A Guide to Solving Neighborhood Issues” (Assemblymember Sam Hoyt & Judge Henry J. Nowak, Buffalo City Housing Court) to block clubs, churches, businesses and non-profits. Also, print highlights of items in local community newspapers.
- Better publicity for anonymous tip line (at bus stops, churches, etc.).
- Organize monthly neighborhood watch group meetings between residents, public safety officers and special police officers.
- Support the new Lower East Side Weed & Seed initiative.

PS3- Goal: Decrease crime and the public’s perception of crime.

Strategies:

- Identify and then fence off prime “cut throughs” in neighborhoods.
- By collaborating with police and/or special police, work to break up gangs on street corners during hours of peak activity.
- Install better street lighting and building lighting and cameras on street corners.
- Use consultants through the City of Buffalo to provide security for properties through environmental design.
- Hire police who live in the City limits.
- Provide safe zones for Lovejoy youth.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Develop methods to review and if needed correct inaccurate media reporting.

- Promote community events.

2. Parks (P) and Environment (E)

P1- Goal: Maintain and improve Lovejoy’s four designated existing parks (see map titled “East Buffalo GNPA Parks and Recreation Facilities” on page 70) . These areas include: Hennepin, Lincoln, Bailey/Moreland and Davey.

Strategies:

- Lovejoy parks should receive the same resources and maintenance as parks across the City. Every park should be equipped with:
 - Lighting,
 - Emergency Phones,
 - Signage indicating the name of the park, hours, and contact number in case of damage or other problems,
 - Adequate seating,
 - Restrooms,
 - Equipment in good repair, and
 - Drinking Fountain.
- Develop a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule for parks.
- Use Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a guide for maintaining parks and securing resources.
- Add new landscaping.
- Build new athletic facilities (such as sledding hills, wading pools, bike trails, skate parks and bocce ball courts).
- Have parks attendants available at all times who have first aid and CPR training. (Use Erie County Park Rangers.)

P2 - Goal: Promote Lovejoy’s parks as both historical and regional assets.

Strategies:

- Hold more City-sponsored events at parks.
- Recognize original Olmsted Parks as national treasures.
- Add passive parks into the existing Olmsted Parks System.



P3-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing pocket parks, small urban parks.

Strategies:

- Survey existing pocket parks.
- Survey vacant parcels to identify potential pocket parks.

P4-Goal: Identify location for passive parks within the Lovejoy neighborhood.

Strategies:

- The creation passive parks should utilize large tracts of vacant, abandoned and otherwise derelict properties. This project would also address several issues simultaneously:
 - housing glut,
 - abandoned and derelict property,
 - utilize and maintain land in order to create a respite in the heart of the city,
 - provide environmentally sound housing that would encompass park areas, and
 - encourage population growth.
- Apply New Urbanism ideas in relation to parks and open spaces within the Lovejoy neighborhood where they would be most conducive and appropriate.

P5-Goal: Identify locations for green parkway system within the Lovejoy neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Use the Olmsted Conservancy's plan for green parkway systems as a guide for identification of this green parkway.
- Identify opportunities for landscape improvements.

E1-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing open green spaces.

Strategies:

- Survey existing green spaces.

E2 - Goal: Preserve and enhance existing green spaces and urban natural resources.

Strategies:

- Work with various groups to plant trees.
- Promote community gardening, composting and recycling programs.
- Promote using green spaces as buffers between residential and industrial properties.

E3 - Goal: Protect existing green spaces and urban natural resources from contamination.

Strategies:

- Pursue funding for brownfield remediation from the City of Buffalo and from external Western New York resources.
- Target pollution: clean sewers and systemically eliminate rats, open junk yards, illegal dumping, tire burning, business that wash barrels and hazardous material brought in through the railroad.

E4 - Goal: Better regulate businesses classified as junkyards.

Strategies:

- Inventory all existing junkyards within the GNPA, enforce regulation of them, and identify best practices to make them more neighborhood-friendly.

- Advocate for a temporary moratorium of 1 year by Common Council on any new or any expansion of businesses classified as junkyards so that the inventory and best practices referred to above can be established.
- Develop strategy to zone out junkyards.

3. Public Works (PW)

PW1 - Goal: Maintain and improve existing infrastructure pertaining to streets, lighting and sanitation.

Strategies:

- Repave entire streets; fix broken curbs and sidewalks.
- Preserve existing brick streets.
- Clean neighborhood streets and clean out the sewer system.
- Install proper street signage for trucks.
- Request National Grid to put numbers back on streetlights and repair streetlights.
- Provide feedback to the City on the effectiveness on the division of sectors/areas for garbage trucks and plows.

PW2 - Goal: Improve and increase snow removal services and resources.

Strategies:

- Work with elected officials to ensure that major roads are plowed efficiently and effectively and in a timely manner.
- Encourage residents move cars to community/residential parking lots to allow City plows to clear the streets.
- Install plows on the front of City garbage trucks.
- Suggest City of Buffalo purchase snow-melting equipment.
- Organize volunteers (Y.E.S.) through community centers and block clubs to assist with snow removal on residential streets and sidewalks. Partner with the City for support with acquiring equipment, training, insurance and storage and maintenance of equipment.

PW3 - Goal: Short term: Prohibit the expansion of existing or creation of new transfer stations in the Lovejoy neighborhood by any organization or business other than the City of Buffalo at the South Ogden Station. Long term: Remove existing and prohibit new transfer stations from East Buffalo GNPA.

Strategies:

- Confirm with zoning experts that zoning for CM-M3 prohibits transfer stations.
- Lobby the Common Council for changes to zoning to prohibit transfer stations from being put in or near residential areas.
- Advocate against approval of new transfer stations by any organization or business at State and Federal level.
- Collaborate with other GNPA's on the elimination of transfer stations.

PW4 - Goal: Encourage residential recycling.

Strategies:

- Increase awareness among residents of the Lovejoy neighborhood as to where they can obtain new or replacement recycling bins at designated community centers. (HomeFront, Matt Urban Center)
- Support school involvement in the recycling program. For example, recycling poster contests and innovative/creative recycling education.

4. Economic Development (ED) and Historic Preservation (HP)

ED1 - Goal: Attract and retain businesses in Lovejoy’s commercial areas that provide a wide range of services. (Suggestions include: pet stores, barber shops, pizza/restaurants, health food stores, museums, art/dance studios, bakeries, dental/doctor offices, ice cream parlors, shoe repair shoes, clothing stores, movie theaters and light manufacturers.)

Strategies:

- Designate Lovejoy St., Clinton St. from Bailey Avenue to City Line, and Seneca St. from Bailey Ave. to Fillmore Ave. as Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Areas (CARE). Capitalize on existing Broadway-Fillmore’s CARE Area designation. As with the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood, Lovejoy also has the benefit of a business corridor. The East Buffalo GNPA advocates the inclusion of Lovejoy’s business district in the third phase of the CARE program. This would incorporate many of the same type of business improvements and upkeep described in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood.
- Maintain a well-kept environment:
 - Add more trashcans to sidewalks.
 - Better enforcement of litter laws; develop more stringent laws.
 - Plant more flowers.
 - Install better lighting.
 - Improve business signage.
 - Develop design standards for storefronts in commercial areas.
 - Build well-lit City parking lots on main business corridors with access off the main streets.
 - Plant appropriate trees along business districts and neighborhood corridors.
- Provide support to small business development.
 - East Buffalo GNPA research and promote the creation or expansion of an East Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. (ie. The Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce)
 - Work with BERC and Common Council to develop more/better tax incentives and low-interest loans for small businesses.
 - Inventory existing small business development programs and disseminate information in a tip sheet and/or maps about existing programs and agencies that support small businesses. See map titled “East Buffalo Selected Programs Focused on Commercial/Industrial Properties Map” which details some existing programs which may aid small business development on page 10.

- Partner with local business entrepreneurs to do community workshops focusing on their methods for success.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Create a marketing campaign to attract suburban customers to Lovejoy businesses using cultural diversity as a marketing tool.
- Improve the public's image of Lovejoy.
- Develop an inventory of vacant commercial/industrial buildings.
- Market available commercial/industrial buildings through economic development agencies and small business associations.
- Support the creation and development of light office parks.

ED2 - Goal: Increase access to consumer services that enhance livability.

Strategies:

- Research consumer services in commercial areas.
- Infill based on identified consumer services needs.
- Open more locally owned dry cleaners, Laundromats, drug stores, photocopy stores and department stores as prior research has indicated a need/want.
- Encourage banks to open on Saturdays.

HP1 - Goal: Build on strengths of existing neighborhood fabric emphasizing unique features and cultural heritage.

Strategies:

- Work with local consultants to identify specific historic structures that qualify for national and local historic landmark recognition and protection.
- Educate residents about historic preservation: what it means for their property and neighborhood, funding available and how to access funding.
- Preserve and maintain existing brick streets; promote neighborhood curb appeal.
- Find a variety of uses for local landmarks (churches, etc.).
- Advocate the City to make every effort to preserve any and all properties that can be documented to have historical significance.

HP2 - Goal: All historic properties are up to code.

Strategies:

- Inventory and research existing historic properties and/or buildings to be preserved and maintained according to government codes.

5. Schools (S), Libraries (L), and Youth (Y)

S1 - Goal: Update, repair, and expand existing public schools to be comfortable and properly equipped for learning. See schools map on page 77.

Strategies:

- Support expansion of School #43, 161 Benzinger Street, to Pre-K through 8th grade from grades 3rd through 8th.
- Support School #43 to be included in Phase III of the Joint Schools Construction Board project to expand the grades and programs at this school.
- Improve lighting and sidewalks around schools.
- Provide more books and computers to each public school.
- In the case of a public school closure, the neighborhood would support reuse of that building by a Charter School.
- Research www.standup.org as a resource for all school strategies outlined in this plan.

S2 - Goal: Create or improve existing services provided to students by public schools.

Strategies:

- Place an increased emphasis on teaching and empowering students to respect themselves and others.
- Require and monitor that all students comprehend the basic skills at their grade level before passing to the next grade level.
- Reestablish full art, music and history classes.
- Promote smaller class sizes taught by well-paid and knowledgeable teachers.
- Support the Creative Educational Continuum, a cradle-to-college student and parent/care-giver enrichment program that involves the schools, neighborhoods, and human services organizations.
- The GNPA is promoting after school programs for use. In areas where there are no community centers we recommend that the school provide the “Lighted School House Program.”
 - The “Lighted School House Program” is an initiative funded by a block grant in order to keep schools open after hours, from “dinner time” to 9:00 p.m. This time was allotted for activities for both youth and adults. Services provided included: education classes, arts & crafts, and sports & recreation.



S3 - Goal: Build neighborhoods around schools.

Strategies:

- Evaluate existing homes and support improvement of housing around schools.
- Demolish abandoned schools or find an immediate reuse. (Suggestions for reuse of public schools include: senior assistance living facilities, loft apartments (market rate), private office space, community center, and neighborhood high school as needed.)
- Promote smaller neighborhood schools and give neighborhood children the first right of refusal to attend a school in their neighborhood.
- Encourage the linkages between renovated/new schools with their surrounding neighborhoods.

L1-Goal: Support Mead neighborhood library. See map of East Buffalo GNPA libraries on page 79.

Strategies:

- Advocate to maintain the only library in the East Buffalo GNPA to remain open: East Clinton.
- Support Council Member's and/or community organizations that want to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries with volunteers (Mead, Fronczak).
- The East Clinton Library is in the official county library system. The Mead and Fronczak libraries would become affiliates. Book borrowing and returning would be channeled through one library, East Clinton.
- Create an advisory group from Broadway-Fillmore and Lovejoy neighborhoods to advocate and solicit funds to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries.

Y1 - Goal: Provide safe zones for Lovejoy youth.

Strategies:

- Continue to promote the “Drug and Weapon Free Zones,” which carry stiffer penalties for violations.
 - Ensure good signage.
 - Neighborhood residents partner with FBI to enforce the zones.
- Increase presence and visibility of Buffalo Police.

Y2 - Goal: Create more jobs, programs and activities for youth.

Strategies:

- Promote youth programs that engage community members through;

1. Community Volunteerism

Offer a Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S) program modeled after the AmeriCorps Y.E.S Program provided by the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. This is a volunteer program that provides teens (12-18) the opportunity to become contributing members of society. Y.E.S. volunteers provide community service through direct interaction with children, senior citizens, and the emotionally and physically challenged.

2. Education

Through several partnerships, residents could gain access to a variety of educational services.

- South Buffalo Education Center: to provide GED classes and free computer classes.
- Deamen College's Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement: to provide after school tutoring for children and youth.
- City of Buffalo: develop, support and promote programs such as YO! Buffalo (Youth Opportunity Movement). The Yo! Program targets youth (16-21) who have dropped out of high school and are functioning at or below an eighth grade level in reading and math. Yo! offers job opportunities, transportation, and supplies to responsible participants. Employers who participate in the program receive the benefits of either a full or 51% wage subsidy, depending upon the level of employment. Involved youth may transition directly into

working for the organizations they are placed with and become eligible to receive tuition assistance to pursue formal training in the field. This program currently operates in three Federal Empowerment Zones in Buffalo, including on the West Side where it operates through the Belle Center.

3 Professional Training

Provide resume writing classes and job interview workshops. Partner with such groups as the Babcock Community Association, “Youth Build,” and other organizations to provide trade apprenticeship programs. “Youth Build” is a nation-wide program that offers youth (16-24) real life training and job experience while also providing education classes, counseling services, and leadership development opportunities.

- Develop Children’s Community Gardens. (Children’s gardens offer an opportunity to add to the aesthetics of Lovejoy while giving the children a valuable resource. A children’s garden could be developed on a vacant site. Sites should be chosen close to community organizations offering youth activities for convenience and easy maintenance of the garden.)
- Support current programming at the various community centers within the East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods, see map on page 82.

6. Housing (H) and Vacant Lots (VL)

H1 - Goal: Redevelop Lovejoy’s housing stock and increase housing options.

Strategies:

- The housing redevelopment priorities to be implemented include:
 - Rehab owner-occupied homes,
 - Acquire and rehab abandoned homes,
 - Build new homes including townhouses/condos for active seniors and singles,
 - Rehab two unit buildings that are owner occupied.
 - Encourage affordable housing for seniors.
 - If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood.
- All housing development priorities will have a focus on owner occupancy and building around schools as well as a long-term objective to build or rehab homes with an emphasis on people being able to stay in their homes regardless of age or special needs.
- Working with housing agencies, identify and increase community resources to support housing redevelopment and housing maintenance.
 - Hold a construction company competition to rehab homes.
 - Partner with and encourage Habitat for Humanity to work in targeted areas and focus on sweat equity.
 - Identify local funding and in kind resources for Habitat for Humanity to use on specific neighborhood projects.
 - Advocate to the City to pursue non-public funding for homeowners at 80% or over median income guidelines for housing rehab.



- Encourage continuation of City of Buffalo practice of having housing agencies that contract with the City of Buffalo collaborate with the GNPA.
- Collaborating with business associations and Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce to implement a discount card program for area residents from local vendors for minor home repairs.
- Research and advocate for the use of green architecture in the redevelopment of homes where appropriate.
- Follow through on existing plans.
- Monitor the use of federal housing funds.

H2 - Goal: Increase homeownership and owner occupancy. See map titled “Lovejoy Owner- vs. Renter-Occupied Residential Properties Map” on page 43.

Strategies:

- Promote programs/funds available for first time homebuyers.
- Prioritize available funds to existing residents/homeowners.
- Rehab vacant apartments to be owner occupied. Do not rehab properties that will be owned by absentee landlords.
- Encourage post-homebuying education classes to assist homeowners in maintaining and improving their homes.

H3 - Goal: Hold individuals accountable for owning/renting dilapidated houses.

Strategies:

- Advocate to the City of Buffalo for strict enforcement of the laws and penalties already on the books, more fines (garnish wages) and jail time, and to work with inspectors and members of block clubs and follow their recommendations.
- Encourage enforcement of Section 8 standards for both the property and tenants living in the property.
- Implement tenant and landlord education programs that promote responsibility.
- Provide collaboration and support to Housing Court Judge Henry Nowak for his programs involving receivership and other tools to bring homes into compliance with housing codes.
- Expand the City’s Comprehensive Code Enforcement Areas to Lovejoy and Kaisertown neighborhoods.

H4 - Goal: Eliminate predatory lending.

Strategies:

- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to put limit on the number of properties that an individual can buy at any given time through City auctions or foreclosures.
- Recommend that no more than 10 homes be allowed for purchase at any given time unless an individual has a positive proven track record.
- Require background checks; work with the City to require full disclosure by a buyer for City auctions and foreclosures and HUD sales, particularly on-line sales.
- Recommend that the City not consummate a sale until a background check has been done; give 3-5 business days for the background check to be completed.

- Promote credit-counseling programs to first time homebuyers.
- Support “Buffalo Don’t Borrow Trouble”, a consumer education program of the Buffalo Urban League.

H5 - Goal: Smart-target demolition planning.

Strategies:

- In order to target demolition effectively, priority is given to homes and areas where frail populations (children and elderly) live, play, go to school, and work.

VL1 - Goal: Maintain existing vacant lots and redevelop them into neighborhood assets.

Strategies:

- Do inventory of existing vacant lots and identify their owners.
- Support the City of Buffalo’s Vacant Land, Buildings and Facilities Asset Management (VLBFAM) Program to establish neighborhood inventories, set local priorities, and coordinate walk throughs of the neighborhoods to map and identify areas that are being used as junkyards. With the completion of the Program’s report and strategy, assess the applicability of their recommendations to the neighborhood.
- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to implement and enforce a maintenance plan for non-City owned lots. The City could generate revenue through taxes on these lots. Recommend the revenue created pay for the contracting of monitoring and enforcement services by a private company.
- Promote Homesteading.
- Use vacant lots to increase lot space for community/residential parking lots, side yards and garages.
- Develop Children’s Community Gardens.

7. Transportation (T)

T1 - Goal: Maintain and upgrade transportation in Lovejoy.

Strategies:

- Preserve existing infrastructure.
- Preserve and improve pavement of all streets.
- Repair and replace bridges as necessary.
- Inventory and preserve existing brick streets.

T2 - Goal: Improve and expand public transportation.

Strategies:

- Increase use of public transit and para-transit.
- Target neighborhood clean up projects around public transit stops.
- Identify existing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) stops that need to be improved (i.e. benches/signage).
- Advocate for the identification of new bus shelters where needed.

- Encourage NFTA to place permanently affixed schedules at each bus stop within the GNPA area.
- Advocate NFTA to make available a map of all bus routes.
- Have the name of each bus stop on the sign for the bus stop.
- Work in collaboration with Citizens Regional Transit Corporation to improve and expand public transportation.

T3 - Goal: Improve mobility and accessibility.

Strategies:

- Implement inter-modal system.
- Identify and implement bicycle infrastructure.
- Promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicles (SOV).
- Educate residents on transportation issues.

T4 - Goal: Use transportation for economic opportunities.

Strategies:

- Employ transportation services which promote higher density.
- Encourage efficient public transportation through existing business corridors to increase employment opportunities.
- Provide for efficient and reliable freight service by rail or truck.
- Promote accessibility to tourist destinations.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Make transportation infrastructure friendly to tourists/visitors.
- Emphasize the impact of Joseph Ellicott's work.

T5 - Goal: Affect transportation policy to improve quality of life.

Strategies:

- Mitigate environment impacts of transportation activities.
- Employ traffic calming methods in residential areas.
- Decrease energy consumption.
- Encourage and enhance non-motorized transportation.
- Request City to stripe or mark all pedestrian crossings.
- Time all signaled intersections to allow for safe crossing by the frailest of pedestrians.

T6 - Goal: Improve transportation and land use coordination.

Strategies:

- Coordinate the regional, city, and neighborhood transportation and land use plans such as this neighborhood plan.
- Encourage mixed-use development by providing multi-modal transportation connections.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Incorporate land use model with transportation planning.

T7 - Goal: Work with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and NFTA to understand existing and future transportation plans for the East Buffalo GNPA area.

Strategies:

- Request GBNRTC and/or NYSDOT to make available planning tools at the neighborhood level (GIS information, access to data and reports, funding for planning expertise).
- Involve GNPA in the Transportation Improvement Program development process of GBNRTC.
- Establish methods for GNPA needs identification to be routed to the Planning and Coordinating Committee of GBNRTC.
- GNPA should be able to initiate Initial Project Proposal Submissions. GNPA can add specific local and private information not readily available to planners at a broader geographic or broader governance level (i.e. regional, state, federal levels).
- GNPA should provide feedback as an advisory group to transportation needs identified by NYSDOT.
- Neighborhood input, through GNPA, should be referenced and recognized during implementation of successful projects.
- Integrate NFTA service with that offered by other transportation providers to increase mobility and access, enhance inter-communication and scheduling. For example, project submitted to NYSDOT by Buffalo Community Center Collaborative.
- Support GBNRTC proposal to expand rail service from central business district downtown to the airport.
 - Support incremental steps to increase bus service from central business district downtown to the airport.
- Specific suggestions for Initial Project Proposals include:
 - Improve Clinton Street and replace bridges on Clinton Street from Jefferson Avenue to City Line.
 - Realign/Improve William Street from Jefferson Avenue to Fillmore Avenue.
 - Realign/Improve Paderewski Street from Fillmore Avenue westward.
 - Implement Wilson Street Greenway from MLK Park to William Street.
 - Mill and Resurface more residential streets.
 - Make Landscape Improvements on: Fillmore Avenue (Olmsted Parkway), Broadway, Fillmore, Memorial, Seneca, Sycamore, Walden.
 - Add bus shelters and pedestrian furniture on Broadway.

4d. Babcock

1. Police and Public Safety (PS)

PS1- Goal: Increase presence and visibility of police officers.

Strategies:

- Use foot patrols, scooters and bikes in commercial and residential areas.
- Improve police presence at parks. (Use Erie County Park Rangers to patrol parks.)
- Expand the special police officer patrol program throughout Babcock provided that the special police have the needed liability insurance required under city charter.

PS2- Goal: Improve the communication and relationships between residents and police.

Strategies:

- Develop a long-term system for residents to safely and anonymously report crimes.
 - Print “Problem Property” tips sheets in each neighborhood in local community newspapers.
 - Promote and distribute items published by local government officials including “Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Right Now “ and the “Neighborhood Impact Statement” (County of Erie Office of the District Attorney’s Community Prosecution Bureau) and “Solutions for a Better Quality of Life: A Guide to Solving Neighborhood Issues” (Assemblymember Sam Hoyt & Judge Henry J. Nowak, Buffalo City Housing Court) to block clubs, churches, businesses and non-profits. Also, print highlights of items in local community newspapers.
- Better publicity for anonymous tip line (at bus stops, churches, etc.).
- Organize monthly neighborhood watch group meetings between residents, public safety officers and special police officers.
- Support the new Lower East Side Weed & Seed initiative.

PS3- Goal: Decrease crime and the public’s perception of crime.

Strategies:

- Identify and then fence off prime “cut throughs” in neighborhoods.
- By collaborating with police and/or special police, work to break up gangs on street corners during hours of peak activity.
- Install better street lighting and building lighting and cameras on street corners.
- Use consultants through the City of Buffalo to provide security for properties through environmental design.
- Hire police who live in the City limits.
- Provide safe zones for Babcock youth.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Develop methods to review and if needed correct inaccurate media reporting.
- Promote community events.

2. Parks (P) and Environment (E)

P1- Goal: Maintain and improve Babcock’s four designated existing parks (see map titled “East Buffalo GNPA Parks and Recreation Facilities” on page 70). These areas include: Franczyk, Mullen, Collins and South Division.

Strategies:

- Babcock parks should receive the same resources and maintenance as parks across the City. Every park should be equipped with:
 - Lighting,
 - Emergency Phones,
 - Signage indicating the name of the park, hours, and contact number in case of damage or other problems,
 - Adequate seating,
 - Restrooms,
 - Equipment in good repair, and
 - Drinking Fountain.
- Develop a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule for parks.
- Use Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a guide for maintaining parks and securing resources.
- Add new landscaping.
- Build new athletic facilities (such as sledding hills, wading pools, bike trails, skate parks and bocce ball courts).
- Have parks attendants available at all times who have first aid and CPR training. (Use Erie County Park Rangers.)

P2 - Goal: Promote Babcock’s parks as both historical and regional assets.

Strategies:

- Hold more City-sponsored events at parks.
- Recognize original Olmsted Parks as national treasures.
- Add passive parks into the existing Olmsted Parks System.

P3-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing pocket parks, small urban parks.

Strategies:

- Survey existing pocket parks.
- Survey vacant parcels to identify potential pocket parks.

P4-Goal: Identify location for passive parks within Babcock.

Strategies:

- The creation passive parks should utilize large tracts of vacant, abandoned and otherwise derelict properties. This project would also address several issues simultaneously:
 - housing glut,
 - abandoned and derelict property,

- utilize and maintain land in order to create a respite in the heart of the city,
- provide environmentally sound housing that would encompass park areas, and
- encourage population growth.
- Apply New Urbanism ideas in relation to parks and open spaces within Babcock where they would be most conducive and appropriate.

P5-Goal: Identify locations for green parkway system within the Babcock neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Use the Olmsted Conservancy’s plan for green parkway systems as a guide for identification of this green parkway.
- Identify opportunities for landscape improvements.

E1-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing open green spaces.

Strategies:

- Survey existing green spaces.

E2 - Goal: Preserve and enhance existing green spaces and urban natural resources.

Strategies:

- Work with various groups to plant trees.
- Promote community gardening, composting and recycling programs.
- Promote using green spaces as buffers between residential and industrial properties.

E3 - Goal: Protect existing green spaces and urban natural resources from contamination.

Strategies:

- Pursue funding for brownfield remediation from the City of Buffalo and from external Western New York resources.
- Target pollution: clean sewers and systemically eliminate rats, open junk yards, illegal dumping, tire burning, business that wash barrels and hazardous material brought in through the railroad.

E4 - Goal: Better regulate businesses classified as junkyards.

Strategies:

- Inventory all existing junkyards within the GNPA, enforce regulation of them, and identify best practices to make them more neighborhood-friendly.
- Advocate for a temporary moratorium of 1 year by Common Council on any new or any expansion of businesses classified as junkyards so that the inventory and best practices referred to above can be established.
- Develop strategy to zone out junkyards.

3. Public Works (PW)

PW1 - Goal: Maintain and improve existing infrastructure pertaining to streets, lighting and sanitation.

Strategies:

- Repave entire streets; fix broken curbs and sidewalks.
- Preserve existing brick streets.
- Clean neighborhood streets and clean out the sewer system.
- Install proper street signage for trucks.
- Request National Grid to put numbers back on streetlights and repair streetlights.
- Provide feedback to the City on the effectiveness on the division of sectors/areas for garbage trucks and plows.



PW2 - Goal: Improve and increase snow removal services and resources.

Strategies:

- Work with elected officials to ensure that major roads are plowed efficiently and effectively and in a timely manner.
- Encourage residents move cars to community/residential parking lots to allow City plows to clear the streets.
- Install plows on the front of City garbage trucks.
- Suggest City of Buffalo purchase snow-melting equipment.
- Organize volunteers (Y.E.S.) through community centers and block clubs to assist with snow removal on residential streets and sidewalks. Partner with the City for support with acquiring equipment, training, insurance and storage and maintenance of equipment.

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Strategies:

- Confirm with zoning experts that zoning for CM-M3 prohibits transfer stations.
- Lobby the Common Council for changes to zoning to prohibit transfer stations from being put in or near residential areas.
- Advocate against approval of new transfer stations by any organization or business at State and Federal level.
- Collaborate with other GNPA's on the elimination of transfer stations.

PW4 - Goal: Encourage residential recycling.

Strategies:

- Increase awareness among residents of Babcock as to where they can obtain new or replacement recycling bins at designated community centers. (HomeFront, Matt Urban Center.)
- Support school involvement in the recycling program. For example, recycling poster contests and innovative/creative recycling education.

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ED1 - Goal: Attract and retain businesses in East Buffalo's commercial areas that provide a wide range of services. (Suggestions include: pet stores, barber shops, pizza/restaurants, health food stores, museums, art/dance studios, bakeries, dental/doctor offices, ice cream parlors, shoe repair shoes, clothing stores, movie theaters, plant nursery, and light manufacturers.)

Strategies:

- Designate Lovejoy St., Clinton St. from Bailey Avenue to City Line, and Seneca St. from Bailey Ave. to Fillmore Ave. as Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Areas (CARE). Capitalize on existing Broadway-Fillmore's CARE Area designation. The East Buffalo GNPA would also like to see the inclusion of Seneca Street (from Bailey Avenue to Babcock) in the fourth phase of the CARE program.
- Maintain a well-kept environment:
 - Add more trashcans to sidewalks.
 - Better enforcement of litter laws; develop more stringent laws.
 - Plant more flowers.
 - Install better lighting.
 - Improve business signage.
 - Develop design standards for storefronts in commercial areas.
 - Build well-lit City parking lots on main business corridors with access off the main streets.
 - Plant appropriate trees along business districts and neighborhood corridors.
- Provide support to small business development.
 - East Buffalo GNPA research and promote the creation or expansion of an East Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. (ie. The Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce)
 - Work with BERC and Common Council to develop more/better tax incentives and low-interest loans for small businesses.
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 - Partner with local business entrepreneurs to do community workshops focusing on their methods for success.
 - Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
 - Create a marketing campaign to attract suburban customers to Babcock businesses using cultural diversity as a marketing tool.

- Improve the public's image of Babcock.
- Develop an inventory of vacant commercial/industrial buildings.
- Market available commercial/industrial buildings through economic development agencies and small business associations.
- Support the creation and development of light office parks.

ED2 - Goal: Increase access to consumer services that enhance livability.

Strategies:

- Research consumer services in commercial areas.
- Infill based on identified consumer services needs.
- Open more locally owned dry cleaners, Laundromats, drug stores, photocopy stores and department stores as prior research has indicated a need/want.
- Encourage banks to open on Saturdays.

HP1 - Goal: Build on strengths of existing neighborhood fabric emphasizing unique features and cultural heritage.

Strategies:

- Work with local consultants to identify specific historic structures that qualify for national and local historic landmark recognition and protection.
- Educate residents about historic preservation: what it means for their property and neighborhood, funding available and how to access funding.
- Preserve and maintain existing brick streets; promote neighborhood curb appeal.
- Find a variety of uses for local landmarks (churches, etc.).
- Advocate the City to make every effort to preserve any and all properties that can be documented to have historical significance.
- Support the Clinton Street Barn, Inc. Strategic Plan.
 - Preserve and revitalize the Clinton Street Barn through the vision of the Clinton Street Barn, Inc. Strategic Plan. The Plan advocates that this property not only be restored, but to also have a future development plan to create a facility to be used as an urban agricultural center. The Barn's unique complex and historic structure provide the ideal setting for this facility. The Clinton Street Barns can become an economic engine for the region creating new jobs and tourism. The goal is to establish a historic link to agriculture in Buffalo as well as create an opportunity for urban residents to experience agriculture in their backyard.



The Clinton Street Barn, Inc. Project currently partners with the USDA's Lake Plains Resource Conservation Development Council, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, SUNY Morrisville, Alfred State College, the Western New York Land Conservancy and the Erie County Agricultural Society.

HP2 - Goal: All historic properties are up to code.

Strategies:

- Inventory and research existing historic properties and/or buildings to be preserved and maintained according to government codes.

5. Schools (S), Libraries (L), and Youth (Y)

S1 - Goal: Update, repair, and expand existing public schools to be comfortable and properly equipped for learning. See schools map on page 77.

Strategies:

- Support the Joint Schools Construction Board projects in the East Buffalo GNPA area.
- Improve lighting and sidewalks around schools.
- Provide more books and computers to each public school.
- In the case of a public school closure, the neighborhood would support reuse of that building by a Charter School.
- Research www.standup.org as a resource for all school strategies outlined in this plan.

S2 - Goal: Create or improve existing services provided to students by public schools.

Strategies:

- Place an increased emphasis on teaching and empowering students to respect themselves and others.
- Require and monitor that all students comprehend the basic skills at their grade level before passing to the next grade level.
- Reestablish full art, music and history classes.
- Promote smaller class sizes taught by well-paid and knowledgeable teachers.
- Support the Creative Educational Continuum, a cradle-to-college student and parent/care-giver enrichment program that involves the schools, neighborhoods, and human services organizations.
- The GNPA is promoting after school programs for use. In areas where there are no community centers we recommend that the school provide the "Lighted School House Program." Partnering with South Buffalo Education Center to provide GED classes and free computer classes and the Seneca Babcock Community Association to provide professional training programs is just a beginning towards finding constructive outlets for our youth.
 - The "Lighted School House Program" is an initiative funded by a block grant in order to keep schools open after hours, from "dinner time" to 9:00 p.m. This time was allotted for activities for both youth and adults. Services provided included: education classes, arts & crafts, and sports & recreation.

S3 - Goal: Build neighborhoods around schools.

Strategies:

- Evaluate existing homes and support improvement of housing around schools.
- Demolish abandoned schools or find an immediate reuse. (Suggestions for reuse of public schools include: senior assistance living facilities, loft apartments (market rate), private office space, community center, and neighborhood high school as needed.)
- Promote smaller neighborhood schools and give neighborhood children the first right of refusal to attend a school in their neighborhood.
- Encourage the linkages between renovated/new schools with their surrounding neighborhoods.

Y1 - Goal: Provide safe zones for Babcock youth.

Strategies:

- Continue to promote the “Drug and Weapon Free Zones,” which carry stiffer penalties for violations.
 - Ensure good signage.
 - Neighborhood residents partner with FBI to enforce the zones.
- Increase presence and visibility of Buffalo Police.

Y2 - Goal: Create more jobs, programs and activities for youth.

Strategies:

- Promote youth programs that engage community members through;

1. Community Volunteerism

Offer a Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S) program modeled after the AmeriCorps Y.E.S Program provided by the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. This is a volunteer program that provides teens (12-18) the opportunity to become contributing members of society. Y.E.S. volunteers provide community service through direct interaction with children, senior citizens, and the emotionally and physically challenged.

2. Education

Through several partnerships, residents could gain access to a variety of educational services.

- South Buffalo Education Center: to provide GED classes and free computer classes.
- Deamen College’s Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement: to provide after school tutoring for children and youth.
- City of Buffalo: develop, support and promote programs such as YO! Buffalo (Youth Opportunity Movement). The Yo! Program targets youth (16-21) who have dropped out of high school and are functioning at or below an eighth grade level in reading and math. Yo! offers job opportunities, transportation, and supplies to responsible participants. Employers who participate in the program receive the benefits of either a full or 51% wage subsidy, depending upon the level of employment. Involved youth may transition directly into working for the organizations they are placed with and become eligible to receive tuition assistance to pursue formal training in the field. This program

currently operates in three Federal Empowerment Zones in Buffalo, including on the West Side where it operates through the Belle Center.

3. *Professional Training*

Provide resume writing classes and job interview workshops. Partner with such groups as the Babcock Community Association, “Youth Build,” and other organizations to provide trade apprenticeship programs. “Youth Build” is a nation-wide program that offers youth (16-24) real life training and job experience while also providing education classes, counseling services, and leadership development opportunities.

- Develop Children’s Community Gardens. (Children’s gardens offer an opportunity to add to the aesthetics of Babcock while giving the children a valuable resource. A children’s garden could be developed on a vacant site. Sites should be chosen close to community organizations offering youth activities for convenience and easy maintenance of the garden.)
- Support current programming at the various community centers within the East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods, see map on page 82.

6. Housing (H) and Vacant Lots (VL)

Special Neighborhood Housing Statement:

Owner-occupied housing is very important to a community’s well being. In Babcock there is a need to rehabilitate owner-occupied homes. If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood. Property that is abandoned should be demolished or rehabilitated as needed. There is also a growing need for additional single-family homes. As the population gets older, more and more of this neighborhood’s residents are senior citizens. The housing market has not been meeting their needs appropriately. Therefore the GNPA encourages affordable and equipped housing for seniors.

H1 - Goal: Redevelop Babcock’s housing stock and increase housing options.

Strategies:

- Implement housing redevelopment priorities specific to each neighborhood’s needs and assets. The housing redevelopment priorities to be implemented include:
 - Rehab owner-occupied homes,
 - Acquire and rehab abandoned homes,
 - Build new homes including townhouses/condos for active seniors and singles,
 - Rehab two unit buildings that are owner occupied.
 - Encourage affordable housing for seniors.
 - If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood.



- All housing development priorities will have a focus on owner occupancy and building around schools as well as a long-term objective to build or rehab homes with an emphasis on people being able to stay in their homes regardless of age or special needs.
- Working with housing agencies, identify and increase community resources to support housing redevelopment and housing maintenance.
 - Hold a construction company competition to rehab homes.
 - Partner with and encourage Habitat for Humanity to work in targeted areas and focus on sweat equity.
 - Identify local funding and in kind resources for Habitat for Humanity to use on specific neighborhood projects.
 - Advocate to the City to pursue non-public funding for homeowners at 80% or over median income guidelines for housing rehab.
 - Encourage continuation of City of Buffalo practice of having housing agencies that contract with the City of Buffalo collaborate with the GNPA.
 - Collaborating with business associations and Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce to implement a discount card program for area residents from local vendors for minor home repairs.
 - Research and advocate for the use of green architecture in the redevelopment of homes where appropriate.
- Follow through on existing plans.
- Monitor the use of federal housing funds.

H2 - Goal: Increase homeownership and owner occupancy. See map titled “Babcock Owner- vs Renter-Occupied Residential Properties Map” on page 54.

Strategies:

- Promote programs/funds available for first time homebuyers.
- Prioritize available funds to existing residents/homeowners.
- Rehab vacant apartments to be owner occupied. Do not rehab properties that will be owned by absentee landlords.
- Encourage post-homebuying education classes to assist homeowners in maintaining and improving their homes.

H3 - Goal: Hold individuals accountable for owning/renting dilapidated houses.

Strategies:

- Advocate to the City of Buffalo for strict enforcement of the laws and penalties already on the books, more fines (garnish wages) and jail time, and to work with inspectors and members of block clubs and follow their recommendations.
- Encourage enforcement of Section 8 standards for both the property and tenants living in the property.
- Implement tenant and landlord education programs that promote responsibility.
- Provide collaboration and support to Housing Court Judge Henry Nowak for his programs involving receivership and other tools to bring homes into compliance with housing codes.

H4 - Goal: Eliminate predatory lending.

Strategies:

- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to put limit on the number of properties that an individual can buy at any given time through City auctions or foreclosures.
- Recommend that no more than 10 homes be allowed for purchase at any given time unless an individual has a positive proven track record.
- Require background checks; work with the City to require full disclosure by a buyer for City auctions and foreclosures and HUD sales, particularly on-line sales.
- Recommend that the City not consummate a sale until a background check has been done; give 3-5 business days for the background check to be completed.
- Promote credit-counseling programs to first time homebuyers.
- Support “Buffalo Don’t Borrow Trouble”, a consumer education program of the Buffalo Urban League.

H5 - Goal: Smart-target demolition planning.

Strategies:

- In order to target demolition effectively, priority is given to homes and areas where frail populations (children and elderly) live, play, go to school, and work.

VL1 - Goal: Maintain existing vacant lots and redevelop them into neighborhood assets.

Strategies:

- Do inventory of existing vacant lots and identify their owners.
- Support the City of Buffalo’s Vacant Land, Buildings and Facilities Asset Management (VLBFAM) Program to establish neighborhood inventories, set local priorities, and coordinate walk throughs of the neighborhoods to map and identify areas that are being used as junkyards. With the completion of the Program’s report and strategy, assess the applicability of their recommendations to the neighborhood.
- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to implement and enforce a maintenance plan for non-City owned lots. The City could generate revenue through taxes on these lots. Recommend the revenue created pay for the contracting of monitoring and enforcement services by a private company.
- Promote Homesteading.
- Use vacant lots to increase lot space for community/residential parking lots, side yards and garages.
- Develop Children’s Community Gardens.

7. Transportation (T)

T1 - Goal: Maintain and upgrade transportation in East Buffalo.

Strategies:

- Preserve existing infrastructure.
- Preserve and improve pavement of all streets.
- Repair and replace bridges as necessary.
- Inventory and preserve existing brick streets.

T2 - Goal: Improve and expand public transportation.

Strategies:

- Increase use of public transit and para-transit.
- Target neighborhood clean up projects around public transit stops.
- Identify existing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) stops that need to be improved (i.e. benches/signage).
- Advocate for the identification of new bus shelters where needed.
- Encourage NFTA to place permanently affixed schedules at each bus stop within the GNPA area.
- Advocate NFTA to make available a map of all bus routes.
- Have the name of each bus stop on the sign for the bus stop.
- Work in collaboration with Citizens Regional Transit Corporation to improve and expand public transportation.

T3 - Goal: Improve mobility and accessibility.

Strategies:

- Implement inter-modal system.
- Identify and implement bicycle infrastructure.
- Promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicles (SOV).
- Educate residents on transportation issues.

T4 - Goal: Use transportation for economic opportunities.

Strategies:

- Employ transportation services which promote higher density.
- Encourage efficient public transportation through existing business corridors to increase employment opportunities.
- Provide for efficient and reliable freight service by rail or truck.
- Promote accessibility to tourist destinations.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Make transportation infrastructure friendly to tourists/visitors.
- Emphasize the impact of Joseph Ellicott's work.

T5 - Goal: Affect transportation policy to improve quality of life.

Strategies:

- Mitigate environment impacts of transportation activities.
- Employ traffic calming methods in residential areas.
- Decrease energy consumption.
- Encourage and enhance non-motorized transportation.
- Request City to stripe or mark all pedestrian crossings.
- Time all signaled intersections to allow for safe crossing by the frailest of pedestrians.

T6 - Goal: Improve transportation and land use coordination.

Strategies:

- Coordinate the regional, city, and neighborhood transportation and land use plans such as this neighborhood plan.
- Encourage mixed-use development by providing multi-modal transportation connections.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Incorporate land use model with transportation planning.

T7 - Goal: Work with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and NFTA to understand existing and future transportation plans for the East Buffalo GNPA area.

Strategies:

- Request GBNRTC and/or NYSDOT to make available planning tools at the neighborhood level (GIS information, access to data and reports, funding for planning expertise).
- Involve GNPA in the Transportation Improvement Program development process of GBNRTC.
- Establish methods for GNPA needs identification to be routed to the Planning and Coordinating Committee of GBNRTC.
- GNPA should be able to initiate Initial Project Proposal Submissions. GNPA can add specific local and private information not readily available to planners at a broader geographic or broader governance level (i.e. regional, state, federal levels).
- GNPA should provide feedback as an advisory group to transportation needs identified by NYSDOT.
- Neighborhood input, through GNPA, should be referenced and recognized during implementation of successful projects.
- Integrate NFTA service with that offered by other transportation providers to increase mobility and access, enhance inter-communication and scheduling. For example, project submitted to NYSDOT by Buffalo Community Center Collaborative.
- Support GBNRTC proposal to expand rail service from central business district downtown to the airport.
 - Support incremental steps to increase bus service from central business district downtown to the airport.
- Specific suggestions for Initial Project Proposals include:
 - Improve Clinton Street and replace bridges on Clinton Street from Jefferson Avenue to City Line.
 - Realign/Improve William Street from Jefferson Avenue to Fillmore Avenue.
 - Realign/Improve Paderewski Street from Fillmore Avenue westward.
 - Implement Wilson Street Greenway from MLK Park to William Street.
 - Mill and Resurface more residential streets.
 - Make Landscape Improvements on: Fillmore Avenue (Olmsted Parkway), Broadway, Fillmore, Memorial, Seneca, Sycamore, Walden.
 - Add bus shelters and pedestrian furniture on Broadway.

4e. Kaisertown

1. Police and Public Safety (PS)

PS1- Goal: Increase presence and visibility of police officers.

Strategies:

- Use foot patrols, scooters and bikes in commercial and residential areas.
- Improve police presence at Stachowski/Houghton Park. (Use Erie County Park Rangers to patrol park.)
- Expand the special police officer patrol program throughout Kaisertown provided that the special police have the needed liability insurance required under city charter.

PS2- Goal: Improve the communication and relationships between residents and police.

Strategies:

- Develop a long-term system for residents to safely and anonymously report crimes.
 - Print “Problem Property” tips sheets in each neighborhood in local community newspapers.
 - Promote and distribute items published by local government officials including “Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Right Now “ and the “Neighborhood Impact Statement” (County of Erie Office of the District Attorney’s Community Prosecution Bureau) and “Solutions for a Better Quality of Life: A Guide to Solving Neighborhood Issues” (Assemblymember Sam Hoyt & Judge Henry J. Nowak, Buffalo City Housing Court) to block clubs, churches, businesses and non-profits. Also, print highlights of items in local community newspapers.
- Better publicity for anonymous tip line (at bus stops, churches, etc.).
- Organize monthly neighborhood watch group meetings between residents, public safety officers and special police officers.
- Support the new Lower East Side Weed & Seed initiative.

PS3- Goal: Decrease crime and the public’s perception of crime.

Strategies:

- Identify and then fence off prime “cut throughs” in neighborhoods.
- By collaborating with police and/or special police, work to break up gangs on street corners during hours of peak activity.
- Install better street lighting and building lighting and cameras on street corners.
- Use consultants through the City of Buffalo to provide security for properties through environmental design.
- Hire police who live in the City limits.
- Provide safe zones for Kaisertown youth.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Develop methods to review and if needed correct inaccurate media reporting.
- Promote community events.

2. Parks (P) and Environment (E)

P1- Goal: Maintain and improve Kaisertown's one designated existing park (see map titled "East Buffalo GNPA Parks and Recreation Facilities on page 70, Stachowski/Houghton Park.

Strategies:

- Kaisertown's park should receive the same resources and maintenance as parks across the City. The park should be equipped with:
 - Lighting,
 - Emergency Phones,
 - Signage indicating the name of the park, hours, and contact number in case of damage or other problems,
 - Adequate seating,
 - Restrooms,
 - Equipment in good repair, and
 - Drinking Fountain.
- Develop a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule for parks.
- Use Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a guide for maintaining parks and securing resources.
- Add new landscaping.
- Build new athletic facilities (such as sledding hills, wading pools, bike trails, skate parks and bocce ball courts).
- Have parks attendants available at all times who have first aid and CPR training. (Use Erie County Park Rangers.)



P2 - Goal: Promote East Buffalo's parks as both historical and regional assets.

Strategies:

- Encourage activities in Stachowski/Houghton Park that cater to regional audiences.
- Hold more City-sponsored events at park.
- Recognize original Olmsted Parks as national treasures.
- Add passive parks into the existing Olmsted Parks System.

P3-Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing pocket parks, small urban parks.

Strategies:

- Survey existing pocket parks.
- Survey vacant parcels to identify potential pocket parks.

P4-Goal: Identify location for passive parks within Kaisertown neighborhood.

Strategies:

- The creation passive parks should utilize large tracts of vacant, abandoned and otherwise derelict properties. This project would also address several issues simultaneously:
 - housing glut,
 - abandoned and derelict property,

- utilize and maintain land in order to create a respite in the heart of the city,
- provide environmentally sound housing that would encompass park areas, and
- encourage population growth.
- Apply New Urbanism ideas in relation to parks and open spaces within East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods where they would be most conducive and appropriate.

P5-Goal: Identify locations for green parkway system within Kaisertown neighborhood.

Strategies:

- Use the Olmsted Conservancy’s plan for green parkway systems as a guide for identification of this green parkway.
- Identify opportunities for landscape improvements.

E1 - Goal: Identify, maintain, and improve existing open spaces.

Strategies:

- Survey existing green spaces within Kaisertown neighborhood.

E2 - Goal: Preserve and enhance existing green spaces and urban natural resources.

Strategies:

- Extend the “natural heritage systems” outlined in the City of Buffalo’s Comprehensive Plan to the end of the City line to include land behind Stachowski-Houghton Park to sustain biodiversity.
- Work with various groups to plant trees.
- Promote community gardening, composting and recycling programs.
- Promote using green spaces as buffers between residential and industrial properties.



E3 - Goal: Protect existing green spaces and urban natural resources from contamination.

Strategies:

- Pursue funding for brownfield remediation from the City of Buffalo and from external Western New York resources.
- Target pollution: clean sewers and systemically eliminate rats, open junk yards, illegal dumping, tire burning, business that wash barrels and hazardous material brought in through the railroad.

E4 - Goal: Better regulate businesses classified as junkyards.

Strategies:

- Inventory all existing junkyards within the GNPA, enforce regulation of them, and identify best practices to make them more neighborhood-friendly.

- Advocate for a temporary moratorium of 1 year by Common Council on any new or any expansion of businesses classified as junkyards so that the inventory and best practices referred to above can be established.
- Develop strategy to zone out junkyards.

3. Public Works (PW)

Special Neighborhood Public Works Statement:

The East Buffalo GNPA would like to attract more homeowners into Kaisertown. This will be accomplished through the improvement of Kaisertown's aesthetic qualities. The goal is to end the loss of population to the inner suburbs and promote the return of residents while sustaining the current levels. Kaisertown does not have enough on street parking which deters potential homebuyers. There should be additional green space to make the homes more attractive to potential homebuyers. Community and residential parking lots would also assist with improving snow removal. Residents could move cars to community parking lots to allow City plows to clear the streets. In order for the community parking lots to be maintained the lots would be metered during business hours.

PW1 - Goal: Maintain and improve existing infrastructure pertaining to streets, lighting and sanitation.

Strategies:

- Repave entire streets; fix broken curbs and sidewalks.
- Preserve existing brick streets.
- Clean neighborhood streets and clean out the sewer system.
- Install proper street signage for trucks.
- Request National Grid to put numbers back on streetlights and repair streetlights.
- Provide feedback to the City on the effectiveness on the division of sectors/areas for garbage trucks and plows.

PW2 - Goal: Improve and increase snow removal services and resources.

Strategies:

- Work with elected officials to ensure that major roads are plowed efficiently and effectively and in a timely manner.
- Encourage residents move cars to community/residential parking lots to allow City plows to clear the streets.
- Install plows on the front of City garbage trucks.
- Suggest City of Buffalo purchase snow-melting equipment.
- Organize volunteers (Y.E.S.) through community centers and block clubs to assist with snow removal on residential streets and sidewalks. Partner with the City for support with acquiring equipment, training, insurance and storage and maintenance of equipment.

PW3 - Goal: Short term: Prohibit the expansion of existing or creation of new transfer stations in the Kaisertown by any organization or business other than the City of Buffalo at the South Ogden Station. Long term: Remove existing and prohibit new transfer stations from Kaisertown.

Strategies:

- Confirm with zoning experts that zoning for CM-M3 prohibits transfer stations.
- Lobby the Common Council for changes to zoning to prohibit transfer stations from being put in or near residential areas.
- Advocate against approval of new transfer stations by any organization or business at State and Federal level.
- Collaborate with other GNPA's on the elimination of transfer stations.

PW4 - Goal: Encourage residential recycling.

Strategies:

- Increase awareness among residents of the GNPA as to where they can obtain new or replacement recycling bins at designated community centers. (HomeFront, Matt Urban Center.)
- Support school involvement in the recycling program. For example, recycling poster contests and innovative/creative recycling education.

4. Economic Development (ED) and Historic Preservation (HP)

ED1 - Goal: Attract and retain businesses in East Buffalo's commercial areas that provide a wide range of services. (Suggestions include: pet stores, barber shops, pizza/restaurants, health food stores, museums, art/dance studios, bakeries, dental/doctor offices, ice cream parlors, shoe repair shoes, clothing stores, movie theaters and light manufacturers.)

Strategies:

- East Buffalo GNPA encourages the inclusion of the Kaisertown Clinton Street business district in the CARE program.
- Maintain a well-kept environment:
 - Add more trashcans to sidewalks.
 - Better enforcement of litter laws; develop more stringent laws.
 - Plant more flowers.
 - Install better lighting.
 - Improve business signage.
 - Develop design standards for storefronts in commercial areas.
 - Build well-lit City parking lots on main business corridors with access off the main streets.
 - Plant appropriate trees along business districts and neighborhood corridors.
- Provide support to small business development.
 - East Buffalo GNPA research and promote the creation or expansion of an East Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. (ie. The Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce)

- Work with BERC and Common Council to develop more/better tax incentives and low-interest loans for small businesses.
- Inventory existing small business development programs and disseminate information in a tip sheet and/or maps about existing programs and agencies that support small businesses. See map titled “East Buffalo Selected Programs Focused on Commercial/Industrial Properties Map” which details some existing programs which may aid in small business development on page 10.
- Partner with local business entrepreneurs to do community workshops focusing on their methods for success.
- Develop methods to regularly feed positive community information to the local media.
- Create a marketing campaign to attract suburban customers to Kaisertown businesses using cultural diversity as a marketing tool.
- Improve the public’s image of Kaisertown.
- Develop an inventory of vacant commercial/industrial buildings.
- Market available commercial/industrial buildings through economic development agencies and small business associations.
- Support the creation and development of light office parks.

ED2 - Goal: Increase access to consumer services that enhance livability.

Strategies:

- Research consumer services in commercial areas.
- Infill based on identified consumer services needs.
- Open more locally owned dry cleaners, Laundromats, drug stores, photocopy stores and department stores as prior research has indicated a need/want.
- Encourage banks to open on Saturdays.

HP1 - Goal: Build on strengths of existing neighborhood fabric emphasizing unique features and cultural heritage.

Strategies:

- Work with local consultants to identify specific historic structures that qualify for national and local historic landmark recognition and protection.
- Educate residents about historic preservation: what it means for their property and neighborhood, funding available and how to access funding.
- Preserve and maintain existing brick streets; promote neighborhood curb appeal.
- Find a variety of uses for local landmarks (churches, etc.).
- Advocate the City to make every effort to preserve any and all properties that can be documented to have historical significance.

HP2 - Goal: All historic properties are up to code.

Strategies:

- Inventory and research existing historic properties and/or buildings to be preserved and maintained according to government codes.

5. Schools (S), Libraries (L), and Youth (Y)

S1 - Goal: Update, repair, and expand existing public schools to be comfortable and properly equipped for learning. See school map on page 77.

Strategies:

- Support the Joint Schools Construction Board projects in the Kaisertown neighborhood: Phase II under construction (Houghton Academy-PS #69, 1725 Clinton Avenue).
- Improve lighting and sidewalks around schools.
- Provide more books and computers to each public school.
- In the case of a public school closure, the neighborhood would support reuse of that building by a Charter School.
- Research www.standup.org as a resource for all school strategies outlined in this plan.

S2 - Goal: Create or improve existing services provided to students by public schools.

Strategies:

- Place an increased emphasis on teaching and empowering students to respect themselves and others.
- Require and monitor that all students comprehend the basic skills at their grade level before passing to the next grade level.
- Reestablish full art, music and history classes.
- Promote smaller class sizes taught by well-paid and knowledgeable teachers.
- Support the Creative Educational Continuum, a cradle-to-college student and parent/care-giver enrichment program that involves the schools, neighborhoods, and human services organizations.
- The GNPA is promoting after school programs for use. In areas where there are no community centers we recommend that the school provide the “Lighted School House Program.”
 - The “Lighted School House Program” is an initiative funded by a block grant in order to keep schools open after hours, from “dinner time” to 9:00 p.m. This time was allotted for activities for both youth and adults. Services provided included: education classes, arts & crafts, and sports & recreation.

S3 - Goal: Build neighborhoods around schools.

Strategies:

- Evaluate existing homes and support improvement of housing around schools.
- Demolish abandoned schools or find an immediate reuse. (Suggestions for reuse of public schools include: senior assistance living facilities, loft apartments (market rate), private office space, community center, and neighborhood high school as needed.)
- Promote smaller neighborhood schools and give neighborhood children the first right of refusal to attend a school in their neighborhood.
- Encourage the linkages between renovated/new schools with their surrounding neighborhoods.

L1-Goal: Support existing neighborhood library. See map of East Buffalo GNPA libraries on page 79.

Strategies:

- Advocate to maintain the only library in the East Buffalo GNPA to remain open: East Clinton.
- Support Council Member's and/or community organizations that want to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries with volunteers (Mead, Fronczak).
- The East Clinton Library is in the official county library system. The Mead and Fronczak libraries would become affiliates. Book borrowing and returning would be channeled through one library, East Clinton.
- Create an advisory group from Broadway-Fillmore and Lovejoy neighborhoods to advocate and solicit funds to re-open/operate recently-closed libraries.

Y1 - Goal: Provide safe zones for Kaisertown youth.

Strategies:

- Continue to promote the “Drug and Weapon Free Zones,” which carry stiffer penalties for violations.
 - Ensure good signage.
 - Neighborhood residents partner with FBI to enforce the zones.
- Increase presence and visibility of Buffalo Police.

Y2 - Goal: Create more jobs, programs and activities for youth.

Strategies:

- Promote youth programs that engage community members through;

1. Community Volunteerism

Offer a Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S) program modeled after the AmeriCorps Y.E.S Program provided by the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. This is a volunteer program that provides teens (12-18) the opportunity to become contributing members of society. Y.E.S. volunteers provide community service through direct interaction with children, senior citizens, and the emotionally and physically challenged.

2. Education

Through several partnerships, residents could gain access to a variety of educational services.

- South Buffalo Education Center: to provide GED classes and free computer classes.
- Deamen College's Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement: to provide after school tutoring for children and youth.
- City of Buffalo: develop, support and promote programs such as YO! Buffalo (Youth Opportunity Movement). The Yo! Program targets youth (16-21) who have dropped out of high school and are functioning at or below an eighth grade level in reading and math. Yo! offers job opportunities, transportation, and supplies to responsible participants. Employers who participate in the program receive the benefits of either a full or 51% wage subsidy, depending

upon the level of employment. Involved youth may transition directly into working for the organizations they are placed with and become eligible to receive tuition assistance to pursue formal training in the field. This program currently operates in three Federal Empowerment Zones in Buffalo, including on the West Side where it operates through the Belle Center.

3 Professional Training

Provide resume writing classes and job interview workshops. Partner with such groups as the Seneca-Babcock Community Association, “Youth Build,” and other organizations to provide trade apprenticeship programs. “Youth Build” is a nation-wide program that offers youth (16-24) real life training and job experience while also providing education classes, counseling services, and leadership development opportunities.

- Develop Children’s Community Gardens. (Children’s gardens offer an opportunity to add to the aesthetics of Kaisertown while giving the children a valuable resource. A children’s garden could be developed on a vacant site. Sites should be chosen close to community organizations offering youth activities for convenience and easy maintenance of the garden.)
- Support current programming at the various community centers within the East Buffalo GNPA neighborhoods, see map on page 82.

6. Housing (H) and Vacant Lots (VL)

Special Neighborhood Housing Statement:

In order to determine which properties need rehabilitation, existing housing will be evaluated. If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood. The housing development priorities will also focus on decreasing the number of multi-unit buildings with three or more units, in order to decrease vacancy rates.

To accommodate Kaisertown’s population, new homes including townhouses/condos for active seniors and singles should be built. Two unit buildings that are owner occupied need rehabilitation. Kaisertown has a large population of senior citizens. This group of residents needs to have the housing market work better for them. To that end, the GNPA encourages affordable housing for seniors and small “market rate” units on Clinton Street.

H1 - Goal: Redevelop Kaisertown’s housing stock and increase housing options.

Strategies:

- Implement housing redevelopment priorities specific to each neighborhood’s needs and assets. The housing redevelopment priorities to be implemented include:
 - Rehab owner-occupied homes,
 - Acquire and rehab abandoned homes,
 - Build new homes including townhouses/condos for active seniors and singles,
 - Rehab two unit buildings that are owner occupied
 - Encourage affordable housing for seniors.
 - If homes cannot be saved, an attempt should be made to build new housing that fits the style of the neighborhood.

- All housing development priorities will have a focus on owner occupancy and building around schools as well as a long-term objective to build or rehab homes with an emphasis on people being able to stay in their homes regardless of age or special needs.
- Working with housing agencies, identify and increase community resources to support housing redevelopment and housing maintenance.
 - Hold a construction company competition to rehab homes.
 - Partner with and encourage Habitat for Humanity to work in targeted areas and focus on sweat equity.
 - Identify local funding and in kind resources for Habitat for Humanity to use on specific neighborhood projects.
 - Advocate to the City to pursue non-public funding for homeowners at 80% or over median income guidelines for housing rehab.
 - Encourage continuation of City of Buffalo practice of having housing agencies that contract with the City of Buffalo collaborate with the GNPA.
 - Collaborating with business associations and Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce to implement a discount card program for area residents from local vendors for minor home repairs.
 - Research and advocate for the use of green architecture in the redevelopment of homes where appropriate.
- Follow through on existing plans.
- Monitor the use of federal housing funds.

H2 - Goal: Increase homeownership and owner occupancy. See map titled “Kaisertown Owner- vs. Renter-Occupied Residential Properties Map” on page 65.

Strategies:

- Promote programs/funds available for first time homebuyers.
- Prioritize available funds to existing residents/homeowners.
- Rehab vacant apartments to be owner occupied. Do not rehab properties that will be owned by absentee landlords.
- Encourage post-homebuying education classes to assist homeowners in maintaining and improving their homes.

H3 - Goal: Hold individuals accountable for owning/renting dilapidated houses.

Strategies:

- Advocate to the City of Buffalo for strict enforcement of the laws and penalties already on the books, more fines (garnish wages) and jail time, and to work with inspectors and members of block clubs and follow their recommendations.
- Encourage enforcement of Section 8 standards for both the property and tenants living in the property.
- Implement tenant and landlord education programs that promote responsibility.
- Provide collaboration and support to Housing Court Judge Henry Nowak for his programs involving receivership and other tools to bring homes into compliance with housing codes.
- Expand the City’s Comprehensive Code Enforcement Areas to Kaisertown neighborhood.

H4 - Goal: Eliminate predatory lending.

Strategies:

- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to put limit on the number of properties that an individual can buy at any given time through City auctions or foreclosures.
- Recommend that no more than 10 homes be allowed for purchase at any given time unless an individual has a positive proven track record.
- Require background checks; work with the City to require full disclosure by a buyer for City auctions and foreclosures and HUD sales, particularly on-line sales.
- Recommend that the City not consummate a sale until a background check has been done; give 3-5 business days for the background check to be completed.
- Promote credit-counseling programs to first time homebuyers.
- Support “Buffalo Don’t Borrow Trouble”, a consumer education program of the Buffalo Urban League.

H5 - Goal: Smart-target demolition planning.

Strategies:

- In order to target demolition effectively, priority is given to homes and areas where frail populations (children and elderly) live, play, go to school, and work.

VL1 - Goal: Maintain existing vacant lots and redevelop them into neighborhood assets.

Strategies:

- Do inventory of existing vacant lots and identify their owners.
- Support the City of Buffalo’s Vacant Land, Buildings and Facilities Asset Management (VLBFAM) Program to establish neighborhood inventories, set local priorities, and coordinate walk throughs of the neighborhoods to map and identify areas that are being used as junkyards. With the completion of the Program’s report and strategy, assess the applicability of their recommendations to the neighborhood.
- Advocate for the City of Buffalo to implement and enforce a maintenance plan for non-City owned lots. The City could generate revenue through taxes on these lots. Recommend the revenue created pay for the contracting of monitoring and enforcement services by a private company.
- Promote Homesteading.
- Use vacant lots to increase lot space for community/residential parking lots, side yards and garages.
- Develop Children’s Community Gardens.

7. Transportation (T)

T1 - Goal: Maintain and upgrade transportation in East Buffalo.

Strategies:

- Preserve existing infrastructure.
- Preserve and improve pavement of all streets.

- Repair and replace bridges as necessary.
- Inventory and preserve existing brick streets.

T2 - Goal: Improve and expand public transportation.

Strategies:

- Increase use of public transit and para-transit.
- Target neighborhood clean up projects around public transit stops.
- Identify existing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) stops that need to be improved (i.e. benches/signage).
- Advocate for the identification of new bus shelters where needed.
- Encourage NFTA to place permanently affixed schedules at each bus stop within the GNPA area.
- Advocate NFTA to make available a map of all bus routes.
- Have the name of each bus stop on the sign for the bus stop.
- Work in collaboration with Citizens Regional Transit Corporation to improve and expand public transportation.

T3 - Goal: Improve mobility and accessibility.

Strategies:

- Implement inter-modal system.
- Identify and implement bicycle infrastructure.
- Promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicles (SOV).
- Educate residents on transportation issues.

T4 - Goal: Use transportation for economic opportunities.

Strategies:

- Employ transportation services which promote higher density.
- Encourage efficient public transportation through existing business corridors to increase employment opportunities.
- Provide for efficient and reliable freight service by rail or truck.
- Promote accessibility to tourist destinations.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Make transportation infrastructure friendly to tourists/visitors.
- Emphasize the impact of Joseph Ellicott's work.

T5 - Goal: Affect transportation policy to improve quality of life.

Strategies:

- Mitigate environment impacts of transportation activities.
- Employ traffic calming methods in residential areas.
- Decrease energy consumption.
- Encourage and enhance non-motorized transportation.
- Request City to stripe or mark all pedestrian crossings.
- Time all signaled intersections to allow for safe crossing by the frailest of pedestrians.

T6 - Goal: Improve transportation and land use coordination.

Strategies:

- Coordinate the regional, city, and neighborhood transportation and land use plans such as this neighborhood plan.
- Encourage mixed-use development by providing multi-modal transportation connections.
- Expect new development to integrate transportation into planning.
- Incorporate land use model with transportation planning.

T7 - Goal: Work with the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and NFTA to understand existing and future transportation plans for the Kaisertown.

Strategies:

- Request GBNRTC and/or NYSDOT to make available planning tools at the neighborhood level (GIS information, access to data and reports, funding for planning expertise).
- Involve GNPA in the Transportation Improvement Program development process of GBNRTC.
- Establish methods for GNPA needs identification to be routed to the Planning and Coordinating Committee of GBNRTC.
- GNPA should be able to initiate Initial Project Proposal Submissions. GNPA can add specific local and private information not readily available to planners at a broader geographic or broader governance level (i.e. regional, state, federal levels).
- GNPA should provide feedback as an advisory group to transportation needs identified by NYSDOT.
- Neighborhood input, through GNPA, should be referenced and recognized during implementation of successful projects.
- Integrate NFTA service with that offered by other transportation providers to increase mobility and access, enhance inter-communication and scheduling. For example, project submitted to NYSDOT by Buffalo Community Center Collaborative.
- Support GBNRTC proposal to expand rail service from central business district downtown to the airport.
 - Support incremental steps to increase bus service from central business district downtown to the airport.
- Specific suggestions for Initial Project Proposals include:
 - Improve Clinton Street and replace bridges on Clinton Street from Jefferson Avenue to City Line.
 - Realign/Improve William Street from Jefferson Avenue to Fillmore Avenue.
 - Realign/Improve Paderewski Street from Fillmore Avenue westward.
 - Implement Wilson Street Greenway from MLK Park to William Street.
 - Mill and Resurface more residential streets.
 - Make Landscape Improvements on: Fillmore Avenue (Olmsted Parkway), Broadway, Fillmore, Memorial, Seneca, Sycamore, Walden.
 - Add bus shelters and pedestrian furniture on Broadway.